

MINUTES

OF THE

EVIDENCE,

Taken before a Committee

OF THE

WHOLE HOUSE OF COMMONS;

ON THE

Articles of Charge of High
Crimes and Misdemeanors,

Presented to the House, against

WARREN HASTINGS, Esq. *h*

Late Governor General of Bengal.

Being the Examinations of

SIR ELIJAH IMPEY,	WILL. HARWOOD, ESQ.
MATH. MIDDLETON, ESQ.	ALEX. HIGGINSON, ESQ.
CAPT. THOMAS MERCER,	WILL. MARKHAM, ESQ.
WILLIAM YOUNG, ESQ.	DAVID ANDERSON, ESQ.
MR. ISAAC BAUGH,	AND WILL. WRIGHT, ESQ.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR J. DEBRET, IN PICCADILLY.

M DCC LXXVII.

C O N T E N T S

Examination of Sir Ralph Inge	2
Historical Collection, 1713 to 1715	143
Letters and Extracts from Mr. Mordaunt's books and papers	143
Capitulum Thomas Mordaunt	143
William Young Esq.	143
Mr. Isaac	143
William	143
Alexander	143
William Mordaunt Esq.	143
David Anderson Esq.	143
Extracts from various letters	143
William Young Esq.	143



C O N T E N T S.

	Page
Examination of Sir Elijah Impey, - -	5, 19
----- Nathaniel Middleton, Esq. 11, 20, 59, 143	
Letters and Extracts from Mr. Middleton's books and papers, -	21 to 58
----- Captain Thomas Mercer, -	60
----- William Young, Esq, -	65, 68
----- Mr. Isaac Baugh, -	66
----- William Harwood, Esq. -	85
----- Alexander Higginson, Esq. -	89
----- William Markham, Esq. - -	97
----- David Anderson, Esq. -	104
Extracts from various Letters, 116 to 142	
----- William Wright, Esq. - -	151

MINUTES

[Faint, illegible text from reverse side of page]

[Faint, illegible text from bleed-through]

be examined, and probably be contrasted with 1 to 1000
 1000s—and that the circumstance upon which he is to
 be examined, will probably be contrasted with 1 to 1000
 of such an order.

Chairman with the said resolution:—To which Sir Ellis
Imvey said.

the committee upon the subject which is before them upon me, to prevent my giving the fullest information to which I wish to testify, it will not have the real influence contended of no guilt, and have nothing in my conduct. — I thank you for your information — but as I am

upon what occasion did you first become acquainted with Do you know a person called Jack or Ullah Cawn, and the witness was then asked.

—but if I have any delusion of his employment possibly I do not know that I ever knew a person of that name.

MINUTES, &c.

Martis, 20^o die Februarij 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

IT being proposed, That Sir Elijah Impey should be now called in, and examined.

Resolved,

That Sir Elijah Impey be now called in, and that the Chairman do acquaint him, that it is possible a criminal inquiry may be instituted against him, for his extra-official conduct, and other transactions, during his residence in India ;—and that the circumstance upon which he is to be examined, may probably be connected with the subject of such an inquiry.

Sir Elijah Impey was called in, and acquainted by the Chairman with the said resolution :—To which Sir Elijah Impey said,

Sir, I thank you for your information ;—but as I am conscious of no guilt, and have nothing in my conduct which I wish to secrete, it will not have the least influence upon me, to prevent my giving the fullest information to the committee upon the subject which is before them.

The witness was then asked,

Do you know a person called Suckut Ullah Cawn ; and upon what occasion did you first become acquainted with him ?

I do not know that I ever knew a person of that name, —but if I have any description of his employment possibly I may know him.

B

He

He was Vackeel or otherwise employed under the Nabob of Farruckabad.

A Vackeel of the Nabob of Farruckabad I did know—but his name I do not know,—but I possibly might know his name formerly,—I do not now recollect it.

Upon what occasion did you know him; and when, and where?

The occasion of my knowing him I can speak to, and where—but when I do not recollect accurately.—The occasion was, he was introduced to me by Mr. Robert Bathurst, at Calcutta, who represented to me that his principal, the Nabob of Farruckabad, was under great oppression from the Vizier's having taken possession of the revenue of his country, and he desired me to introduce the Vackeel to Mr. Hastings to tell his story.—This I did; and, as I well remember, in the public audience room of the Governor General.—That was the occasion of my knowing him.

Do you remember what was done in consequence of that introduction?

I do not know that any thing was done in consequence of that representation, any more than that the Governor General received the Vackeel—I then interfered no more in the business.

Did this happen before the sending up an English resident, or after?

I do not know when the English resident was sent up.

Was it before Mr. Hastings went to Benares?

It was before Mr. Hastings went to Benares, and I believe a long while before.

Did you see that Vackeel at Benares or Chunar?

I do not recollect—I possibly might,—but I cannot tell whether I did or not.

Did not Mr. Middleton make a remonstrance, soon after the Treaty of Chunar, about sending this man to establish and proclaim the independency of his master in the territory of Farruckabad?

When I was at Lucknow Mr. Middleton did make such remonstrance; and at the same time added, that the Nabob of Farruckabad was indebted I think to the amount of nine lacks of rupees to the Vizier, which he said would be lost to the Vizier if that measure was carried into execution. This he desired me to represent to Mr. Hastings.—I did—and Mr. Hastings said, that he would take care that that money should be secured to the Vizier—of which I informed Mr. Middleton.

What steps did Mr. Hastings take in consequence of that representation from Mr. Middleton?

I do not know what he did.

Whether

Whether the Vizier had not actually sent Almas Ali Cawn, or some other sequestrator, into the country, between the signing of the Treaty of Chunar, and the declaring the independence of the Nabob of Farruckabad?

I have heard Almas Ali Cawn was sent—but I know nothing of the fact,—nor do I know whether it was between the signing of the Treaty of Chunar, and such a declaration, if such declaration of the independence of the Nabob was made.

Have you not produced a letter to this committee, from Mr. Middleton to you, in which are these words; “Sukut Ullah Cawn, instead of coming to me, has proceeded straight to Farruckabad, where he has proclaimed his own commission, and his master’s independency, in terms not very respectful to the Vizier?”

I beg leave to refer to the letters I have produced; for I do not remember accurately their contents.

Whether the Vizier did not, besides the object of the debts, consider the removal of his people as an infringement of an article in the treaty of Chunar?

I never had any conversation with the Vizier on the subject, and know nothing how he considered it.

Did not Mr. Hastings insist on the Nabob Vizier recalling Almas Ali Cawn from that country?

As well as I recollect, I think he did.

Upon what principle did he justify that mandate?

I have not at this time any recollection whether I have heard him justify it or not:—If he did, and I knew it, his reasons are most probably contained in the letter I wrote to Mr. Middleton on that subject, and now before the committee.

Are you sure then, that any reason is assigned in your letter for Mr. Hastings’s persevering in those orders?

I am by no means sure.

Whether you was not employed to solicit this business on the part of the Nabob, or of Mr. Middleton?

Mr. Middleton desired me to make this representation—that representation I made—that was the whole of my employment or soliciting.

Did not you in your letter say that you did all you could in that business?

I possibly did;—and I have told the committee all I could do.

Whether you never heard Mr. Hastings assign any reason for this peremptory resolution?

I do not recollect any further reason than his considering it as done in contravention of his orders.

When did he give those orders?

Whether he gave orders or not I cannot tell—but I understood he considered it as contrary to some orders he had given.

To whom did he give those orders?

I have before said, I did not know he had given any orders at all.

Did not you declare, in a letter to Mr. Middleton, that you considered yourself, as well as Mr. Middleton, to be pledged for the performance of the agreement between Mr. Hastings and the Vizier?

I, having related to Mr. Hastings the assurances Mr. Middleton had given, that the treaty of Chunar should be carried into execution, and having added, that I was sure Mr. Middleton was sincere in those assurances, believe I wrote something to that effect.

Did not you write that you considered yourself as pledged to the execution of the treaty of Chunar?

My letter is on the table of the committee:—I have said I wrote to that effect—the words I do not remember.

Considering yourself as pledged to the execution of the treaty of Chunar, why did you never ask Mr. Hastings his reasons for acting in a point relating to a principal branch of that treaty?

Mr. Hastings was very anxious that the treaty of Chunar should be carried into execution—he said, he thought his whole credit and reputation depended upon it.—I was desirous to press Mr. Middleton to get that whole treaty carried into execution.—I never conversed, either with the Governor or Mr. Middleton, on the treaty, article by article, but only pressed Mr. Middleton that the whole of it might be executed.

Is there any thing in the treaty of Chunar which enabled Mr. Hastings to order the recall of the Nabob's officer from Farruckabad?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

He was asked,

Did Mr. Hastings assign any reason, grounded by him on the treaty of Chunar, to justify the order he had given for the recall of the Vizier's officer from Farruckabad?

Not as I recollect.

Did not Mr. Hastings give an order for the release from imprisonment of a person called Ismael Beg, whom the Vizier had ordered to be confined?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And

And being again called in ;

The question was repeated.

Whether the Vizier had ordered him to be confined, I do not know—but Mr. Hastings gave directions for the release of a person called Ismael Beg.—I should imagine he did not think him imprisoned by the Vizier;—for the reason he gave for ordering Ismael Beg to be released was this,—that he understood Ismael Beg was coming to him to make some remonstrances, and that he had been imprisoned at Lucknow, to prevent his coming for that purpose.

Imprisoned by whom, and by whose authority ?

I understood under the authority of the Nabob, made use of, I believe, by Hyder Beg.

Was it common for Hyder Beg to make use of the Nabob's authority without his consent ?

And the question being objected to ;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ;

The question was repeated.

I know nothing of Hyder Beg's conduct.

Did not Mr. Middleton represent to Mr. Hastings, through you, that he must consider the execution of those orders relating to Ismael Beg to have an effect that would tend to render the Nabob less respected in the eyes of his people ?

I do not recollect, but I rather think he did.

Did not Mr. Middleton represent Ismael Beg as a villain that had obtained a triumph over him, and that it had given a severe stab to the influence and authority of his station ?

I recollect, upon the question being put in this manner, such expressions were used in some letters of Mr. Middleton.

You being employed to make representations to that effect, what reason did Mr. Hastings give for persevering in his resolution to free a person, so described by the Resident, from an imprisonment inflicted by the ordinary authority of the country ?

I am extremely desirous of giving every information to the committee in my power ; but as it has been intimated to me by the chairman of the committee, that there is an intention of preferring a criminal accusation against me, and that the matters which are involved in the present inquiry may be part of that accusation, I do not know how far the force of the word *employed* may in the sense of the committee involve me. I have no objection to explain *how employed*, but with the generality of the word not to be carried farther than the truth of the case. To the fact I am
ready

ready to answer.—I have the same objection to make to the frequent repetitions of the word *solicit*, because I do not mean to admit myself before this House to be a solicitor or common agent in this business.—The reason, as well as I can recollect at this distance of time, that Mr. Hastings assigned for interfering in the release of Ismael Beg, was what I have before related, and, if the committee desire it, will relate again.—That he understood that Ismael Beg was coming from Lucknow to him to prefer complaints, and that his imprisonment was merely for the purpose of preventing his preferring those complaints. This I think I stated in my letter; and I think I added, that whether that fact was true or not, Mr. Hastings was so well convinced of it, that it operated on his mind as if it was true. I know no other reason for Mr. Hastings's interfering.

Did the Nabob, or Mr. Middleton, admit the truth of this allegation of Mr. Hastings?

Whether the Nabob knew of it I cannot tell—Mr. Middleton certainly did not admit it.

Did not Mr. Middleton state, that this man's conduct to the Nabob had been infamous?

I believe he did.

Did he not offer to get the particulars verified upon oath?

I rather believe that he did—all I know of it is from Mr. Middleton's letters, which are before the House.

Whether Mr. Middleton did not inform you that the Nabob would probably write to Mr. Hastings himself, before he finally complied with his, Mr. Hastings's, injunctions?

If he did, it was by letters which are before the House, and to which I desire to refer—I am very much afraid, not having perfect recollection of the letters, of saying any thing contradictory to them.

Then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The witness was asked,

Did you represent to Mr. Hastings the matters which were contained in those letters?

I take it for granted I did.

What did Mr. Hastings do in consequence of that representation relative to Ismael Beg?

Mr. Hastings frequently pressed for the release of Ismael Beg.—What further was done, I do not recollect—if any thing further was done without my knowledge, it will appear on the face of the letters, to which I beg leave to refer.

Is there any answer amongst the letters from you to Mr. Middleton's last representation?

I beg to refer to the letters.

Was any thing done in consequence of that representation?

I do not know.

Was Ismael Beg released?

I really do not recollect whether he was or was not—I have not even at present an opinion on that subject.—I should rather think Mr. Hastings's authority was yielded to on that occasion; but I do not know.

When was Mr. Shee appointed resident at Farruckabad?

I know he was appointed resident, but when I do not recollect—It was before the treaty of Chunar.

Was you at Calcutta when Mr. Shee's appointment took place?

I dare say I was, but I do not recollect—as I was chiefly resident at Calcutta, I dare say I was.

Did you ever converse with Mr. Hastings on that subject?

To the best of my recollection I never did.

Do you know whether, antecedent to such appointment, Mr. Hastings had or had not expressed a disinclination to interfere in the nomination of a resident at Farruckabad?

I do not recollect having had any conversation, or hearing any thing upon the subject.

Do you know what was the immediate reason of naming Mr. Shee to that appointment?

Of my own knowledge I cannot say; and what I have heard I would rather wish, if the question is not pressed, not to answer, as it may be a reflection upon a gentleman, upon whom, standing as I do, he would be the last man I would throw a reflection.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON, Esq. called in and examined.

Do you know whether, soon after the Treaty of Chunar had passed, the Vizier did not name Almas Ali Cawn, or some Sezawaul, to Farruckabad?

He did.

How soon after?

I think in about three weeks after, to the best of my recollection.

Did the Vizier consider himself as entitled to do so under the treaty of Chunar?

I have no doubt but he did.

Did

Did not Mr. Hastings direct that the Sezawaul should be recalled ?

Yes—he did.

How soon after the appointment ?

I do not recollect exactly the time but very soon after the appointment was made.

Did not the Vizier consider this recall as an infringement of the treaty of Chunar ?

I do not know whether he did or not ; but he remonstrated against it, because he conceived it would be giving up the means of collecting his tribute.

Did he not consider the manner of doing it as a great indignity to himself, and as a matter forced upon him ?

He certainly complained violently against it ; and it was much against his inclination that the Sezawaul was withdrawn.

What motives were assigned by Mr. Hastings for withdrawing the Vizier's Sezawaul ?

To leave the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung to pay his tribute through his own officers.

What answer did Mr. Hastings make to the frequent representations that you made to him on that subject ?

I do not recollect any particular answer he made, but that the tribute would be paid through the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung's own officers.

Did not Mr. Hastings render himself responsible that that tribute should be paid ?

As far as assurances would do it, he did.

Whether Mr. Hastings did not appoint a person of that country, called Suckut Ullah Cawn, or some such name, to the management of the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung's affairs ?

I do not know that Mr. Hastings appointed him, but I have a recollection he informed me that that person was to come to Lucknow for the purpose of settling the Vizier's tribute.—It either came to me from Mr. Hastings immediately, or from him through Sir Elijah Impey.

Did Suckut Ullah Cawn come to Lucknow, agreeable to the information you received ?

He did not.

When you, in your letter to Sir Elijah Impey, mention that Suckut Ullah Cawn proclaimed his own commission on his going from Mr. Hastings to Farruckabad, what commission did you mean ?

His commission of Superintendant of Naib or Minister to the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung.

From whom did he receive that commission ?

I do not know—nor do I know he had such a commission at all.

Did

Did he not proclaim that he had such a commission?

He certainly did, according to the accounts I received from Furruckabad.

If he had such a commission, do not you think that he meant to have it understood that he had it from Mr. Hastings?

I think he meant to have it understood that he had it from Mr. Hastings.

How long did Suckut Ullah Cawn continue in possession of the Naibut before the return of the Sezawaul on the part of the Vizier?

I think till the month of July 1782, or thereabouts.

By whose authority was he then removed?

By a letter from the Governor General and Council, which directed that effectual assistance should be given to the Vizier for the recovery of his claims on Farruckabad.

How long did that Sezawaul continue in possession?

I cannot say—he was appointed when I was absent from Lucknow, and he remained in that office when I was recalled from Lucknow.

Was there any complaint on the part of Muzzuffer Jung or any of his relations, of oppressions exercised in the country, or indignities offered to their family by the Vizier's Sezawaul?

I cannot say I recollect any.

Did you ever hear of any such complaints being made?

I think I have heard that complaints were made to Mr. Hastings.

What did Mr. Hastings do in consequence of those complaints?

It is probable, in consequence of those complaints, the Sezawaul was ordered to be recalled—but I speak without any positive knowledge of the fact.

Do you know of any, and what, complaints which were made against Mr. Shee, the Company's resident, whilst he continued at Farruckabad?

I cannot say that I myself know of any—I have heard it, but only from mere reports, which I think it unnecessary to trouble the committee with.

Do you think Mr. Hastings heard of those reports?

I apprehend Mr. Hastings must have heard of those complaints, as the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung had a Vakeel at Calcutta with him.

Were any complaints made by the Nabob Muzzuffer Jung against Mr. Shee, which were transmitted to the Vizier, and by him communicated to you?

I do not recollect that any were communicated to me.

Do you know any other channel by which the Vizier communicated any such complaints to Mr. Hastings?

I do not know that he did by any other channel, but he had a Vakeel at Calcutta through whom he might have communicated them.

Do you know that in fact any such complaints were communicated?

I do not of my own knowledge, know that there were.

Do you know it by any other, and what information?

To the best of my recollection I have heard that complaints were made; but I cannot recollect the particular instances, nor through what channel.

Are you sure it was not from Mr. Hastings's printed observations on the treaty at Chunar, in some publication?

It is impossible to say through what channel they were made—in short, I have no knowledge of any complaints being made.

Did Mr. Hastings ever instruct you, either by letter or verbal direction, either at Chunar or elsewhere, to set on foot an enquiry into the truth or falsehood of those rumoured charges?

He certainly did not.

Have you in your possession any correspondence relative to the affairs of Farruckabad?

I do not know that I have.

You will be pleased to answer that question directly.

I have some copies of letters, but whether they respect Farruckabad or no I cannot say.

You will say, upon what account Ismael Beg was imprisoned at Lucknow?

As I understood it—for a balance of his revenues.

Was it by the Vizier's authority that he was confined? Certainly.

And with his knowledge and approbation?

Certainly.

Had he behaved himself dutifully and respectfully to the Nabob Vizier?

I never heard any complaints against him for a contrary conduct to the Nabob, as I recollect.

Was Ismael Beg's conduct in any respect disrespectful or insulting to the Nabob, or do you mean that Mr. Hastings's order to free him from imprisonment was disrespectful or insulting to the Nabob and his ministers?

I do not know of any instance of his insulting conduct to the Nabob before the occasion for which he was put into confinement.

Was

Was it so afterwards?

My informations were chiefly from the Nabob himself, and I think I transmitted the Nabob's letters on that subject to Mr. Hastings; and I hope the committee will permit me to refer to those letters, as I really cannot charge my memory with circumstances of so long a date.

Did the Nabob Vizier, in fact, himself complain to you of such insolence of Ismael Beg?

To the best of my recollection he did, as also his minister upon that occasion.

Did you think Ismael Beg a man of good or evil character, fit to be trusted or not?

I certainly thought him very trust-worthy, and was myself in some measure instrumental in recommending him to the farm of Illahabad.

Did you always persevere in that opinion?

I believe I did, till he failed in his engagements with the Vizier.

Did you think him blameable in that respect?

I certainly did.

Was his conduct to you or Mr. Hastings improper?

I certainly thought so.

Did he endeavour to depreciate Mr. Hastings's character?

I understood he did.

In what manner?

I do not know that he endeavoured to depreciate his character, but he propagated reports of his being superseded in the government, and endeavoured to prejudice his influence at the Vizier's Court.

What reasons did Mr. Hastings assign for ordering him to be freed from his confinement?

I cannot say I recollect the particular reasons he assigned.

Did he assign any reason against the fairness of the accounts, for not answering which he was confined?

I do not recollect that he did.

Did Mr. Hastings produce any special circumstances which induced him to insist upon his being discharged?

I do not recollect that he did.

Did he not assign as one reason, that he was imprisoned to prevent his making petitions or remonstrances to him?

It is possible he might, but I do not recollect that he did.

Was that the cause of his imprisonment?

I conceive not.

Did Mr. Hastings take any measures, to your knowledge, to verify whether that was the cause or not?

Not to my knowledge.

Did

Did Mr. Hastings take any measure to secure the payment of Ismael Beg's balance before he was released?

I do not know that he did; but I think he mentioned that the account was to be fairly settled before he was released.

Was that done?

The account was settled, but I believe the balance was not paid.

Was the balance considerable?

I do not recollect what the sum was; but I think it was between one and two lacks of rupees.

Was he not again appointed to those collections?

I believe not, during my residence at Lucknow.

Was he afterwards?

I think he was afterwards, but I really am not certain.

Had he not made you some overtures relative to your interest before he had been six hours in confinement?

To the best of my recollection he did.

What were they?

They were general:—He gave me to understand he would make it worth my while to espouse his cause against the Nabob.

Did you reject that offer?

I paid no sort of attention to it.

Do you know of any reason better than that of a pecuniary interest, that could have induced any person to order his release from a confinement inflicted by the lawful authority of the country?

I do not know any reason for it, unless it might have been supposed he had been unjustly confined.

Do you know any reason for it, except such as above, which could be assigned by any person in justification of his release, other than upon an enquiry whether the confinement was just or unjust?

I cannot say I know any other.

Was not Mr. Hastings very peremptory from the beginning, in ordering Ismael Beg to be released?

To the best of my recollection he was.

Was Suckut Ullah Cawn, the Vakeel of Muzzuffer Jung, resident at Calcutta with Mr. Hastings?

I understood he was.

Do you know whether it was the custom of Mr. Hastings to allot so many hours, in almost every day, to converse with the Vakeels resident in Calcutta, and to receive their representations?

I understand it was his custom.

Do you know whether Mr. Hastings speaks the Moor language

language well (which is the common language for conversation.)

I always understood that he did—as well as Europeans do in general.

Do you know whether Mr. Hastings understands the Persian language, sufficiently to read a Persian letter himself, and to understand it perfectly as read by a Monshee?

I have always understood that Mr. Hastings understood the Persian language perfectly well, and of course that he could read and understand a Persian letter.

Had the Nabob Vizier a Vakeel at Calcutta, and what was his name?

He had a Vakeel at Calcutta—his name was Rajah Govind Ram.

Do you know that Mr. Hastings permitted the Vakeels to attend him on business at all times, at his garden house, as well as at the government house, in Calcutta?

I do not know it was his custom to receive Vakeels promiscuously at his country house, but I have often seen the Vizier's Vakeel and others there.

Do you conceive that representations might have been made by the Nabob Vizier and Muzzuffer Jung, through their Vakeels, without any communication with the resident at Lucknow?

Certainly I conceive there might.

While you was resident at Lucknow, and Mr. Shee at Farruckabad, was the tribute from Muzzuffer Jung regularly remitted to Lucknow?

I do not recollect—I believe it was never fully paid up.

While Muzzuffer Jung had the intire management of his country, from December 1781 to July 1782, did he make any remittance of his tribute to Lucknow?

None at all.

Before Mr. Shee's appointment, was the tribute regularly paid up and remitted?

I believe it was not.

Was it better paid during Mr. Shee's continuance in office, or worse than in the periods preceding it?

I believe much the same; but I speak from a very imperfect recollection.

Then your answer is not from any certainty?

No.

Upon what grounds do you make this last assertion, that the remittances in Mr. Shee's time were much the same as before?

I speak from recollection merely—I think there were always balances on the tribute from Farruckabad.

Were

Were those balances less after the removal of Mr. Shee?
I think there was very little, if any thing, collected after the removal of Mr. Shee.

The two following questions, which had been before put to the witness, and his answers, were again read.

“ Do you know of any reason better than that of a pecuniary interest, that could have induced any person to order his release from a confinement inflicted by the lawful authority of the country ?

“ I do not know any reason for it, unless it might have been supposed he had been unjustly confined.

“ Do you know any reason for it, except such as above, which could be assigned by any person in justification of his release, other than upon an enquiry whether the confinement was just or unjust ?

“ I cannot say I know any other.”

And then the witness was asked ;

Do you mean to imply, by your answers to those questions, that Mr. Hastings was influenced by his private interest to order the release of Ismael Beg ?

Most certainly I do not.

Are you not fully persuaded that Mr. Hastings was not influenced by any such motives ?

As far as I am acquainted with any circumstances, I am persuaded he was not.

Did Mr. Hastings order any inquiry to be instituted, whether Ismael Beg was justly or unjustly imprisoned ?

I do not know that he did, further than ordering the account of his balances to be taken.

Did not you inform Mr. Hastings, through Sir Elijah Impey, that Ismael Beg had been tampering with you by some pecuniary offers for his release ?

I did write to Sir Elijah Impey on the subject, to the best of my recollection, to the purport of one of my letters before the committee, delivered in by Sir Elijah Impey ; but whether he communicated it to Mr. Hastings, or not, I cannot say.

Did Mr. Hastings, after the letter had been sent to be communicated, informing him of the corrupt offers of Ismael Beg, and your motives for refusing them, desist from his injunctions to have him (Ismael Beg) released from prison ?

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ; he was asked,

Did you mean that the letter written by you, relative to Ismael Beg, should, either by itself or in its substance, be com-

communicated by Sir Elijah Impey to Mr. Hastings, or not?

I certainly wished that the substance should be communicated to Mr. Hastings.

Did Mr. Hastings, after the letter had been sent to be so communicated, informing him of the corrupt offers of Ismael Beg, and your motives for refusing them, desist from his injunctions to have him (Ismael Beg) released from prison?

He persevered in his injunctions, that he should be so released; but I do not recollect having received any fresh orders from him after the dispatch of that letter.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

Veneris, 23^o die Februarij 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

SIR ELIJAH IMPEY being called in;

And the order for the production of the correspondence in his possession, relating to the affairs of Farruckabad, being read to the witness;

He was asked,

Have you brought any such correspondence with you?

I have not.

Have you any further correspondence relative to Farruckabad in your possession?

I have not any correspondence relative to Farruckabad, nor any other correspondence relative to the articles exhibited against Mr. Hastings, but such letters as I have before delivered into this committee—nor have had in England any but what I before delivered in.

In whose custody did you leave your correspondence with Mr. Middleton relative to the affairs of Oude, or other matters relative to public business?

In the custody of nobody.

What

What did you do with that part of your correspondence?

I before told this committee, that it was by mere chance any part of the correspondence was preserved—I never thought of preserving it.

The question repeated.

I should have prefaced what I before said, by saying, that I do not know what is become of it.

If you do not know what is become of it, how can you assert that you have left it in no man's hands at Calcutta?

I did not mean that it might not by chance have come into the hands of any person at Calcutta, but that I never left it in trust with any body there.—I hope there is no inconsistency in that answer.

Did you destroy those papers, or not?

If I destroyed them, I do not remember that I destroyed them.—I even will not take upon myself to say that they ever existed; though I rather believe that more letters passed than those which were produced before this committee.

You will recollect whether you did or did not destroy them, and speak positively to that point?

If I could recollect whether I did or did not destroy them, I should have answered the question as fully as I have answered any question put to me by the committee.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON, Esquire, being called in;

And the order for the production of the correspondence in his possession, relating to the affairs of Farruckabad, being read to him,

He was asked,

Have you brought that correspondence?

I have.

The witness then produced at the bar a list, containing a reference to certain books he had brought with him.

And the said list and books were delivered in at the table.

And then the witness was asked,

Are there in those books any part of your correspondence with Sir Elijah Impey, relative to Farruckabad, or the affairs of Oude?

I believe not.

Have you copies or originals of any correspondence between you and Sir Elijah Impey, relative to the affairs of Oude, since your correspondence commenced, in 1780?

To the best of my knowledge I have not.

How

How have you disposed of that correspondence ?

When I left India I destroyed all papers which I thought of no consequence; and I apprehend Sir Elijah Impey's letters were amongst those I destroyed—I don't know I ever kept copies of my letters to Sir Elijah Impey.

Have you Sir Elijah Impey's letters to you ?

I believe I have already said I have not.

Is your whole correspondence relative to Farruckabad in those books ?

Every thing that is in my possession.

Is there any further correspondence any where else ?

Not that I know of.

Has any been given up to Mr. Hastings, or destroyed ?

I have already said to this committee, that many of my letters were delivered up to Mr. Hastings several years ago—It is possible some of them might have related to Farruckabad; but I cannot say.

Have any been delivered from you to Mr. Hastings, since the period of those which the Court of Directors ordered you to deliver up to the Governor General and Council ?

None have been delivered up since the period when Mr. Hastings demanded them—I don't recollect when that was.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

The said letters and extracts, copied from the several books so delivered in by Mr. Middleton, according to the direction of the said list, are as follow.

‘ Mr. Bristow to Lieutenant Colonel Goddard.

‘ To Lieutenant Colonel Goddard.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the pleasure to send you herewith a letter from his Excellency the Vizier.

‘ As his Excellency has entirely given up Munitaz ul Dowlah to Muzuffer Jung, he has also agreed to a request of the letter to withdraw the guards upon his house and effects; and has directed me to acquaint you with his resolution, and to request you will order the guard of your Sepoys, now stationed there, to make over their charge to Muzuffer Jung's people, as some compensation to him for the deficiencies in the revenue, whilst in the hands of Munitaz ul Dowlah.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.’

‘ Lucknow, 10th Jannary 1777.

D

‘ To

‘ To Lieutenant Colonel Wilding, commanding the
 ‘ Temporary Brigade at Fatty Ghurr.

‘ Sir,

‘ Agreeably to your desire, I now forward you a
 ‘ letter from the Nabob Vizier, requesting that you
 ‘ will occasionally furnish the Nabob Muzuffer Jung,
 ‘ upon his and the Sizowoul’s application, with such
 ‘ aid as you may be able, in realizing the collections
 ‘ of his Excellency’s tribute.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir, yours, &c.

‘ Signed NATH. MIDDLETON,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Resident, &c.’

‘ 11th October 1778.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s
 ‘ assignments to the Company on the Nabob Mo-
 ‘ zuffer Jung.

‘ Sir,

‘ In conformity to the commands of the Honour-
 ‘ able the Governor General and Council, under
 ‘ date the 22d ultimo, constituting you in the place
 ‘ of the Sezawul at Farruckabad, to collect the Vi-
 ‘ zier’s assignment to the Company on the Nabob
 ‘ Mozuffer Jung, with the same allowances, estab-
 ‘ lishment, and power, that have been given to the
 ‘ said Sezawul, I now proceed to give you such in-
 ‘ formations and instructions as I judge requisite for
 ‘ your fulfilling the intentions of your appointment.

‘ The tribute to be paid by the Nabob Mozuffer
 ‘ Jung to his Excellency the Vizier is settled at Luck-
 ‘ now Sicca Rupees 4,50,000 per annum; but on
 ‘ account of balances remaining unpaid at the end of
 ‘ the last Hindoo year 1186, which was in our 25th
 ‘ September 1779, the whole demand upon the Na-
 ‘ bob of Farruckabad became 6,62,000 Lw. Sa. Rs.,
 ‘ agreeable to the account inclosed, No. 4, which also
 ‘ specifies the sum allowed to the Sezawul on the part
 ‘ of the Nabob Vizier, for such a force as is necessary
 ‘ to make your collections, and of course becomes a
 ‘ deducting from the Nabob Vizier’s claim. On the
 ‘ separate paper, No. 2, is specified the allowances on
 ‘ the part of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung, which must
 ‘ be accumulated upon the Tuncaw he will give you
 ‘ for the purpose of answering the Nabob’s claim.
 ‘ Three per cent. is the commission of the Sezawul, to
 ‘ be drawn only upon the specific sum which he shall be
 ‘ found

' found to have collected of the amount made over to
 ' him in assignments. The balance to the Company
 ' due from Abdullah Beg, the present Sezawul, ac-
 ' cording to the No. 3, amounts to 2,09,514 Lw.
 ' Sa. Rs., for which you have, No. 4, the bond of
 ' the Nabob Mozuffer Jung; this it appeared neces-
 ' sary to take, because all the collectors in the country
 ' have officially signed these obligations, as an ac-
 ' knowledgment that the demand is a just one; and
 ' as your situation is more in the light of a collection,
 ' I could not demand such an obligation from you.
 ' The bond however is made out with this saving
 ' clause, that he the Nabob Mozuffer Jung shall
 ' credit in the accounts of the Vizier, for whatever
 ' sums shall be proved to be due from the Sezawul
 ' Abdullah Beg, upon an adjustment of his accounts.
 ' You will likewise receive herewith, No. 5, a copy
 ' of the Kistbundee executed by Abdullah Beg,
 ' which, as all the dependant adjustments with the
 ' inferior Aumils are made according to it, can be the
 ' only line for my demands upon you to the end of
 ' the present year.

' No. 6. is a Perwannah to the Sezawul, directing
 ' him to deliver over charge of his office to you, to-
 ' gether with the public papers and cash in his hands,
 ' to point out the several Aumils, and the Purgun-
 ' nahs in which they have been employed; to deliver
 ' you accounts of his particular adjustments with them
 ' for the public revenue of the collections they have
 ' paid him, and the balances severally due from them.
 ' It is unnecessary to inform you that these several
 ' dependent accounts, united, must from the abstract
 ' which I have inclosed, No. 3; and upon them, and
 ' the acknowledgments of the Aumils, must depend
 ' your information from whence the balance in de-
 ' mand must be drawn. It may be adviseable to ob-
 ' lige the several Aumils, as you may settle the de-
 ' mands upon them for the balance due on their en-
 ' gagements, with the Sezawal to sign bonds for their
 ' balances to be paid to the end of the present year, at
 ' which time each Aumil must render you an account
 ' of his Jumma Crutch, that is, his collections and
 ' disbursement, that you may be enabled to settle the
 ' just demands of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung for the
 ' ensuing year; for from the nature of the engage-
 ' ments between his Excellency the Vizier, and the
 ' Nabob Muzuffer Jung, which are not upon the
 ' footing of those between the government and farm-
 ' ers, whatever deficiencies there may be in one year,

‘ must be accumulated on the tribute, of the next.
 ‘ This will render it absolutely necessary for the Na-
 ‘ bob of Farruckabad’s ease, each year, to be punc-
 ‘ tual in the discharge of the tribute, by giving into
 ‘ your hands ample assignments, in order to prevent
 ‘ his being additionally burthened in the ensuing : A
 ‘ maxim it will be your duty to inculcate and force,
 ‘ as it will, besides the real benefit to the Nabob
 ‘ Mozuffer Jung, render secure that part of the Com-
 ‘ pany’s assignments from the Vizier.

‘ In your adjustment with the Sezawul Abdullah
 ‘ Beg, should any difference arise between you and
 ‘ him, it must be referred to my decision, when you
 ‘ will make me acquainted with all circumstances and
 ‘ papers which you imagine will assist me therein. At
 ‘ the end of the present year, which will be in Sep-
 ‘ tember next, it will be requisite for you to come to
 ‘ Lucknow, in order to adjust the accounts between
 ‘ this government and the Nabob Mozuffer Jung,
 ‘ who should also come himself, or depute his De-
 ‘ wan.

‘ I am, Sir,

‘ Your most obedient servant,

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’
 ‘ 16th June 1780.’

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company’s
 ‘ Assignments at Furruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ A Zemindar of the district of Almas Ally
 ‘ Khaun, named Kotule Cawn, having killed the
 ‘ above Aumil’s Naib of Ettawah, in a battle, and
 ‘ fled from his own Pergunnah into the country of
 ‘ the Nabob Mozuffer Jung, is, I understand, now
 ‘ in treaty with Purrunkook, to deliver to him a fort
 ‘ at Nedowly, situated upon the confines of the two
 ‘ provinces, in order thereby the more effectually to
 ‘ support a rebellion against the Nabob’s government,
 ‘ and oppose the collection of the rents. I therefore
 ‘ request you will take especial care that the fort is not
 ‘ only not delivered up, but that Purrunkook shall be
 ‘ immediately advised, that such a conduct will place
 ‘ him in such a light of culpability, as to bring him
 ‘ to a severe account and punishment. You will fur-
 ‘ ther please to require of him, if possible, to appre-
 ‘ hend the person of Kotule Cawn, and deliver him
 ‘ to Almas Ally Khaun’s Naib at Etawah. —The
 more

‘ more speedily these measures are taken, the more
 ‘ effectual they will be.

‘ I am, Sir,

‘ Yours, &c.

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’
 ‘ 18th Aug. 1780.’

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company’s
 ‘ Assignments at Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I am favoured with your letter of the 24th instant,
 ‘ and have written to Colonel Muir, to assist you
 ‘ with a force for the reduction of Nedouly, in case
 ‘ you should find it necessary to apply to him. By
 ‘ the inclosed copy of a letter to the Nabob Vizier,
 ‘ and of his answer, you will perceive that he has de-
 ‘ clined giving the order you required.

‘ If you will please to read my letter of the 21st
 ‘ instant, you must observe that my recommendation
 ‘ of Almas Ally Khaun could not amount to an in-
 ‘ terference with your office, which I understand to
 ‘ be established clearly under my orders and autho-
 ‘ rity; and had I ordered, instead of recommending
 ‘ your acceptance of the proposals of Almas Ally
 ‘ Khaun, whose well-known responsibility and punc-
 ‘ tuality in the performance of his engagements I
 ‘ vouched for, I do not think I should have passed
 ‘ the line drawn for your powers, which are the same
 ‘ as those of the native Sezawul, who undoubtedly
 ‘ would have obeyed any order I gave him upon the
 ‘ subject of his trust for the Nabob Vizier; and who
 ‘ would have understood such a recommendation as
 ‘ clearly tending to his ease, and the public advan-
 ‘ tage.

‘ As to the delivery of the fort of Nedouly, after
 ‘ reduction, to the charge of Almas Ally Khaun,
 ‘ my letter cannot be read with any attention, if it is
 ‘ understood that I was desirous of supporting a claim
 ‘ of his Excellency the Vizier to the property of the
 ‘ fort; for as I could not believe that an Aumil of
 ‘ the character of Almas Ally Khaun could be re-
 ‘ fused such an application, I naturally concluded,
 ‘ that the most summary and effectual method of re-
 ‘ storing peace in those parts was by desiring, through
 ‘ the Vizier’s Perwannah, that Colonel Muir would
 ‘ reduce it, (which he certainly could have done by
 ‘ the same force, or the shew of it, as if directed by
 ‘ your authority,) and deliver it into the hands of
 ‘ Almas

' Almas Ally Khaun, whose respectability in those
 ' parts, and the requisite force he is furnished with,
 ' would render it more secure from capture, and less
 ' liable to be lost by treachery, than where in the
 ' hands of the dependents of the Nabob Muzuffer
 ' Jung, whose late instance of infidelity plainly indi-
 ' cates the incapacity of the government, the instabi-
 ' lity and uncertainty of any possession the Nabob
 ' has, and has at this very instant rendered precarious
 ' the revenues of both the Vizier's and the Nabob's
 ' lands, on the confines of which this fort appears
 ' to be. While I am governed by no motive, but
 ' the welfare and success of the business committed
 ' to my charge, part of which I must consider your
 ' office, while the orders of the Governor and Coun-
 ' cil are binding, it is immaterial to me what pro-
 ' tests are made; I am of opinion that the proposals
 ' of Almas Ally Khaun, for the revenues of the
 ' Pergunnah of Merara, provided they are equal to
 ' the offers of others, ought to have been accepted,
 ' as far as your influence with the Nabob on his peo-
 ' ple could accomplish it; that you ought to have
 ' been pleased with the safe opportunity you had of
 ' collaterally benefiting your employers, by a measure
 ' which expressly tends to the security of the revenues
 ' of both the parts of the Pergunnah in question,
 ' though divided—divided as to the property, evident-
 ' ly affecting the same interest.

' I am, Sir,

' Lucknow,

' Your most obedient,

' 31st Aug. 1780.

' Humble servant,

(Signed)

' C. PURLING.'

' To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company's
 ' Assignment on Farruckabad.

' Sir,

' I have received your letter of the 15th instant;
 ' and am exceedingly sorry to observe, from the tenor
 ' of it, as well as from a former correspondence I
 ' have had with you, that a misinterpretation of the
 ' plain words and intentions of my letters, is likely
 ' to render me liable to accumulated trouble in this
 ' already burthensome station. Unwilling as I have
 ' been to be drawn into an unnecessary and ill-timed
 ' alteration, to the obstruction of the many import-
 ' ant objects of my charge, I am concerned to be
 ' compelled to point out to you, that you appear
 ' widely to have mistaken and departed from the in-
 ' tention

‘ tention of your appointment, explicitly laid down
‘ by the Honourable Board, and to have taken up a
‘ new and unintended lieu. The Honourable Board’s
‘ letter to me, under date the 22d of May, shews the
‘ exprefs object and foundation of your appointment
‘ to be the exemption of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung,
‘ from the hardships and indignities he had complain-
‘ ed he had suffered from the native Sezawul, ap-
‘ pointed for the collection of the tribute due from
‘ the Nabob of Farruckabad, and made over in assign-
‘ ment to the Honourable Company——with this in-
‘ tention, you are appointed collector of the Com-
‘ pany’s assignment on Farruckabad, and ordered to
‘ proceed to Lucknow, to be invested with your
‘ charge, and to receive instructions for your conduct
‘ from me. From whence then are your ideas
‘ drawn? What documents have I, to suppose that
‘ you have been erected an arbiter of the rights of
‘ princes? From whence am I to consider you autho-
‘ rized so freely to comment upon the Perwannah of
‘ the Vizier, or the conduct or intentions of his mi-
‘ nisters, in the adjustment of accounts? By what
‘ new arrangement am I to understand that an order
‘ transmitted agreeable to the form prescribed by the
‘ Board shall be set aside? And by what right am I
‘ to determine that the presence of any person sum-
‘ moned by such an order, for the exprefs purpose of
‘ settling accounts, is necessary at Lucknow? What
‘ authority even have I to refuse my concurrence to
‘ the observation of an established custom, or to de-
‘ stroy one single right which the Nabob Vizier, a
‘ prince in friendship and alliance with the Honour-
‘ able Company, conceives himself entitled to? The
‘ Nabob Mozuffer Jung has never before refused the
‘ attendance of his Dewan to settle his yearly ac-
‘ counts; nor has he or his ministers deputed his de-
‘ pendence, or disavowed that respect and deference
‘ to the station of the Vizier of the empire, which,
‘ exclusive of the necessity of settling accounts, ren-
‘ ders such a customary deputation a positive right.
‘ Does a requisition that accounts shall be annually
‘ settled, and each party be satisfied with the justice
‘ of the yearly demand, imply a desire to oppress?
‘ And who are the proper people for the adjustment
‘ of these accounts, but the ministers of the Nabob
‘ Vizier, and those of the Nabob of Farruckabad?
‘ From the above you must conceive, that as far
‘ as my judgment leads me to decide on the letter and
‘ spirit of your appointment, I consider that you are,
‘ (as

' (as well as myself,) without a power to destroy one
 ' right or custom hitherto observed : And as it ap-
 ' pears from all the forms I have been subject to
 ' through the course of my service, only necessary
 ' that I should give, and you receive and obey expli-
 ' cit orders, I shall add here, that I have thought it
 ' unnecessary to wait the Nabob of Farruckabad's re-
 ' ply to his Excellency the Vizier's Perwannah, both
 ' because his indisposition may possibly delay it be-
 ' yond the period of the time necessary to bring my
 ' accounts to a conclusion, and because I cannot ad-
 ' mit that a non-compliance of a man little above
 ' the state of idiotism, only become a possibility, since
 ' your appointment can make a difference in the ne-
 ' cessity of propriety of deputing a person as required
 ' by the Nabob Vizier : I now therefore enclose a
 ' Perwannah from myself to the Nabob Mozuffer
 ' Jung, which you will please to have delivered to
 ' him forthwith. This Perwannah requires an obe-
 ' dience to the Perwannah of the Nabob Vizier ; in-
 ' forms him that your appointment was not made
 ' with an intention to destroy the customs hitherto
 ' observed between him, the Nabob Mozuffer Jung,
 ' and the Nabob Vizier ; and gives him to under-
 ' stand, that if he refuses the deputation, you have
 ' my orders to send his Dewan by force ;—and I
 ' now give you my positive direction, in case of a re-
 ' fusai on the part of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung, to
 ' oblige his Dewan to attend with the necessary papers
 ' for settling the accounts, by putting him under a
 ' guard, and sending him to Lucknow.

' Should the Nabob Mozuffer Jung be so ill as not
 ' to open my letter, you will send for the Dewan,
 ' direct him to read it in your presence, and inform
 ' him that nothing is required but what he has al-
 ' ways hitherto done, and that if he attends without
 ' further delay, he shall not be liable to the displea-
 ' sure of the Nabob Vizier, or of myself.

' I am, Sir,

' Your most obedient,

' Humble servant,

(Signed)

' C. PURLING.

' Lucknow,

' 21st Sept. 1780.

' To

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company’s
 ‘ Assignments at Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I enclose a letter from the Nabob Vizier to the
 ‘ Nabob of Farruckabad, requiring the attendance of
 ‘ his Dewan, to settle his yearly accounts. You will
 ‘ be so good as to allow the Dewan to come as soon
 ‘ as possible.

‘ I am,

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ Lucknow,
 ‘ 16th Oct. 1780.’

‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Honourable
 ‘ Company’s Assignments on Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I must repeat my order to you to send forthwith
 ‘ the Dewan of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung to Luck-
 ‘ now, that his accounts with his Excellency the
 ‘ Vizier may be settled for the last year, and to en-
 ‘ able his Excellency to grant his assignment to the
 ‘ Honourable Company for the present; and I posi-
 ‘ tively direct that you, immediately on receipt here-
 ‘ of, remit whatever public money may be in your
 ‘ hands to Lucknow, without any excuse or delay
 ‘ whatever.

‘ I am,

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ Lucknow,
 ‘ 31st Oct. 1780.’

‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector Vizier’s assignments
 ‘ to the Company upon Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with your letter of 26th
 ‘ ultimo, with 26 bills for L. H. Sa. 40,000, drawn
 ‘ at 11 days sight; as soon as realized the amount
 ‘ shall be carried to the credit of the Vizier’s assign-
 ‘ ments to the Company upon Farruckabad.

‘ I have the honour to be, &c.’

‘ Lucknow,
 ‘ 1st Dec. 1780.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Honourable Company, upon the Nabob of Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ The season being far advanced, and the assignments granted by his Excellency the Vizier for the Honourable Company, amounting to the very considerable sum of 6,43,000 Rs. it is very material that I should be immediately furnished with a Kistbundee of the payments you may expect you will be able to make me in liquidation of that amount of the current year; I have therefore to request you will furnish me with such an account as soon as possible.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Sir, &c.’

‘ 5th Dec. 1780.’

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Honourable Company, upon the Nabob of Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ In the absence of Mr. Middleton, I have received your letter of the 15th November, covering bills for 20,000. Immediately upon receipt, I sent them for acceptance, which being refused to the two enclosed, I take the liberty of returning them.

‘ By Dernigur Teek Chund, at Farruckabad, upon Butchrage Berendass, dated 26th Aughun, at 11 days date.

1 — 3,000

1 — 2,000

———— 5,000 Hauly Siccas.

‘ The other parts of your letter I shall do myself the honour of returning an early answer to more at length.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ Lucknow,

‘ (Signed) R. JOHNSON.’

‘ 23d Dec. 1780.’

‘ Mr.

‘ Mr. Johnson to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Honourable Company on the Nabob of Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ His Excellency the Vizier having received a petition from Hyperfaud, the renter of the Salt Petre farm for the present year, complaining, that he cannot get possession of the Pans in the district of Farruckabad, he has desired me to communicate to you his wish, that you will not only suffer him, but assist the farmer in the prosecution of this : I must therefore join my request to his Excellency’s; for, whether the claim is founded upon legal right, or otherwise, custom has established his Excellency’s exclusive privilege of granting that farm upon Farruckabad, in common with the rest of his dominions, to whomsoever he may think fit.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Your most obedient,

‘ Jan. 5th, 1781.

‘ humble servant.

‘ P. S. A letter to the same purport as this has also been written, and sent from his Excellency the Vizier to the Nabob Muzuffer Jung.’

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Company, on the Nabob of Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with your letter of the 15th December last, the receipt of which Mr. Johnson has already acknowledged, in his letter of the 23d December, written during my absence.

‘ It gives me the greatest concern to peruse the melancholy prospect you afford me, in the object of realizing the demands for the present year upon the Nabob of Farruckabad. I must confess that apprehensions of a similar tendency had already possessed me, from the uncommonly small remittances you had hitherto been able to make me, at so advanced a period of the year—almost one third elapsed, and the first crop off the ground.

‘ These alarms the more readily gained ground with me, from not receiving any assurances from you to counteract them. The consequence was,

‘ my preparing to ask from the Vizier a remission of
 ‘ the claim upon Farruckabad, in exchange for an
 ‘ equal assignment upon some of his Excellency’s
 ‘ Amildars, within his own dominions : But now
 ‘ that your letter has not only confirmed, but increas-
 ‘ ed those alarms, I find myself under the necessity of
 ‘ making such an application immediately ; and shall
 ‘ advise you of the result.

‘ If my succession in this measure should at the
 ‘ same time afford any relief to the distresses of the
 ‘ Nabob Muzuffer Jung, who, from what you ex-
 ‘ press, has at present barely a maintenance for him-
 ‘ self, his family, and numerous relations, it will
 ‘ afford me an additional pleasure ; particularly as
 ‘ this object has expressly formed the principal aim
 ‘ of the Honourable Board in your present appoint-
 ‘ ment.

‘ The Kistbundee cannot be taken, as you propose,
 ‘ from that of any former year, not only because the
 ‘ total amount of the present claim is not similar to
 ‘ any former, but also because it must be an official
 ‘ document, in form of an obligation, by the person
 ‘ in charge of the collections, agreeably to the usual
 ‘ and universal mode of these parts, which has hither-
 ‘ to been invariably attended to by the Sizawal at Far-
 ‘ ruckabad, in whose place the orders of the Board
 ‘ have expressly placed you.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ Lucknow, (Signed) ‘ N. MIDDLETON.’
 ‘ 8th Jan. 1781.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s
 ‘ assignments, &c.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with your letter of the 17th
 ‘ instant, inclosing bills of exchange for 20,000
 ‘ Lucknow Sicca Rupees, account his Excellency the
 ‘ Vizier’s assignment on Farruckabad ; which amount,
 ‘ when paid, shall be passed to the credit of your col-
 ‘ lections.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Sir, &c.’

‘ 23d Feb. 1781.’

Mr.

Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier's assignments in favour of the Honourable Company on Farruckabad.

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 9th of March, inclosing bills of exchange, in part of payment of the Vizier's assignment in favour of the Honourable Company, on Farruckabad, for twenty thousand rupees; which amount, when received, shall be carried to the credit of your collections.

Lucknow, I have the honour to be,
15th March 1781. Sir, &c.

To Mr. George Shee, Collector, &c. Farruckabad.

Sir,

I have been favoured with the receipt of your letter, under date 23d instant, covering bills of exchange for twenty thousand Rupees, in part payment of the Vizier's assignment to the Honourable Company, on Farruckabad. The amount, when received, shall be passed to the credit of your collections.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Lucknow, Your most obedient,
25th Mar. 1781. humble servant,
(Signed) N. MIDDLETON.

Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier's assignments to the Honourable Company on Farruckabad.

Sir,

I have been favoured with your letter of the 9th instant, covering 13 bills of exchange for Lucknow Haullie Siccas 25,000. As soon as realized, the amount shall be carried to the credit of the Vizier's assignments to the Company on Farruckabad.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Lucknow, Yours, &c.
13th April 1781.

Mr

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Company on Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, covering bills of exchange for Lucknow Sicca Rupees thirty thousand, on account of his Excellency the Vizier’s assignments to the Company on Farruckabad; the amount, when received, shall be carried to the credit of your collections.

‘ Lucknow,
3d May 1781.’

‘ I have the honour to be,
‘ Sir, &c.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Vizier’s assignments to the Honourable Company upon Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ Being engaged in settling my last year’s accounts with his Excellency the Nabob Vizier, I must request you will as speedily as possible inform me of the extent of what I have to expect the total receipt from Farruckabad will amount to for the year 1188; and should you have any balance in hand, that you will be pleased to remit it to me.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Lucknow,
28th Oct. 1781.

‘ Your most obedient,
‘ humble servant.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company’s assignments on the Nufferana of Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ Should you have any money to remit me on account of your collections, either for the past or the present year, I request you will be pleased to pay it into the hands of Mr. George Day, Paymaster to the Futtu Ghur detachment, for the use of the troops at that station.

‘ I am, Sir,

‘ Lucknow,
31st Oct. 1781.

‘ Your most obedient,
‘ humble servant.’

‘ Mr.

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee.

‘ Sir,

‘ His Excellency the Nabob Vizier having entrusted
‘ Almas Ally Cawn with the adjustment and rea-
‘ lizing of his claims on the Nabob of Farruckabad,
‘ I am to request you will be pleased to make over to
‘ him, or such agent as he may depute, an account
‘ of your collections, as it may stand at the time of
‘ his arrival, with such other vouchers and official
‘ documents as may be necessary, to enable him to
‘ ascertain the actual sum he will have to demand of
‘ Muzuffer Jung on the Vizier’s account.—I farther
‘ request that you will also transmit me copies of all
‘ accounts and papers that you may deliver to Almas
‘ Ally Cawn, on his delegate; and I am,

‘ Sir,

‘ Lucknow,
‘ 8th Nov. 1781.

‘ Your most obedient,
‘ humble servant.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Mr. Shee.

‘ To Mr. George Shee.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the honour to inclose the original of an
‘ order to you from the Honourable the Governor
‘ General, dated the 23d September last.

‘ I am,

‘ Lucknow,
‘ 8th Nov. 1781.

‘ Your most obedient,
‘ humble servant.’

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding at Jayes.

‘ Sir,

‘ There being immediate service for a regiment at
‘ Farruckabad, I have written to Major Lumisdaine
‘ to send a detachment to occupy your station; but as
‘ I do not suppose any material inconveniency can
‘ occur from your marching before the arrival of
‘ Major Lumisdaine, I must request, in concurrence
‘ with the desire of the Nabob Vizier, that you will
‘ immediately take the shortest road to Fatty Ghur,
‘ where you will receive further instruction.

‘ I have the honour to be, Sir,

‘ Your most, &c.

‘ Lucknow,
‘ 22d Aug. 1782.

‘ (Signed) R. JOHNSON,
‘ Atg. Resident.

‘ I beg to be informed of the route you mean to take.’

‘ Mr.

‘ Mr. Johnson to Major Thomas Scott.

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 8th re-
‘ giment marching to Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ The duty you are marching upon to Farrucka-
‘ bad, is to establish an agent going on behalf of the
‘ Nabob Vizier to demand and collect the tribute due
‘ from the Nabob Mozuffer Jung.

‘ By the last advices, the chief manager of the Na-
‘ bob Mozuffer Jung’s affairs, named Subkit ulla
‘ Khan, has resolved to oppose this measure; but
‘ no information upon this subject is to be relied upon
‘ but what you may obtain upon your arrival, or
‘ from Mahomed Seyed Khan, and pay Hananund,
‘ the agents going from the Nabob Vizier; the latter
‘ of these two is the man upon whose knowledge and
‘ exertions dependance is placed in the execution of
‘ this trust, and with him you will be pleased to con-
‘ sult upon the nature of such support as he may re-
‘ quire in his business.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Lucknow,
‘ 9th Sept. 1782.

‘ Your most obedient,
‘ humble servant.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Major Thomas Scott.

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 3d re-
‘ giment on its march to Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have had the honour to receive your letter of the
‘ 11th instant from Cawnpore.

‘ I am preparing instructions for your guidance,
‘ which will be dispatched so as to reach you by the
‘ time of your arrival at Futtý Ghur.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Lucknow,
‘ 16th Sept. 1782.

‘ Sir,

‘ Your’s, &c.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Major Thomas Scott.

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 3d re-
‘ giment on its march to Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have received the honour of your letter of the
‘ 14th instant, and am much concerned to hear of
‘ the

‘ the treatment you met with at Billour. I hope the
 ‘ proper resentment you shewed to such unwarrant-
 ‘ able conduct will be the means of exempting you
 ‘ from from any future insults of the same sort.

‘ The only instructions I have at present to give
 ‘ you for the guidance of your conduct at Farrucka-
 ‘ bad, I have forwarded to Roy Heranund, to be de-
 ‘ livered to you on your arrival.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Sir,

‘ 18th Sept. 1782.

‘ Yours, &c.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Major Thomas Scott.

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding the 3d re-
 ‘ giment, on its march to Farruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ If, upon your arrival with the Sezawal and his
 ‘ Dewan at Farruckabad, you should find no danger
 ‘ of any opposition, or personal danger to them, you
 ‘ will be pleased to proceed on, through Berelley, to
 ‘ Cazem Ally Khan, collector of the districts in Ro-
 ‘ hilcund, which lately formed the Jagheer and Jai-
 ‘ dads of Letafut Ally Khan, and give him such sup-
 ‘ port in his business as he may require.

‘ It may be useful to inform you, for your guid-
 ‘ ance, that the Sezawal of Farruckabad has one
 ‘ thousand Nejeebs allowed him, by the Nabob Vi-
 ‘ zier, for his defence.—From which you will be
 ‘ able to judge how far he may be safe without your
 ‘ aid.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ Sir,

‘ 19th Sept. 1782.

‘ Yours, &c.’

‘ Mr. Middleton to Major Thomas Scott.

‘ To Major Thomas Scott, commanding at Far-
 ‘ ruckabad.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with the receipt of your
 ‘ favours of the 22d and 25th instant.

‘ I am much surprized at Mahomed Seyed Khan,
 ‘ and Roy Haranund’s not having been to wait upon
 ‘ you. I have wrote to them my sentiments of such
 ‘ behaviour.

‘ By a letter I have this day received from the
 ‘ Sezawal, he informs me your presence is absolutely
 F necessary.

‘ necessary. I must, therefore, request you will remain where you are, and afford him every assistance in your power, till you receive further instructions.

‘ I have the honour to be,
 ‘ Lucknow, ‘ Sir,
 ‘ 29th Sept. 1782. ‘ Yours, &c.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ I send by the bearer bills of exchange amounting to forty thousand Rupees, and request you will direct him where to carry them.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) ‘ GEORGE SHEE.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ The busy scene in which I have for some days past been engaged, will, I hope, obtain me your excuse, for not having before this time acknowledged the receipt of your letter, dated the 5th instant, which I had the honour of receiving previous to my arrival at this place.

‘ A farmer, of the name of Fukke Rasla Khaun, having repeatedly applied to me for military aid, assuring me, that unless I afforded it to him, he had no prospect of collecting any part of the revenues of several Pergunnahs which he rents from the Nabob Muzuffer Jung, and which are made over to his Excellency the Vizier, I determined to give him such assistance as I had power to grant, should I find its operations necessary; but previously to endeavour, by fair means, to bring the refractory Zemindars to reason. On my arrival at this place I found that his representation was just, and that the obstruction to his collections was occasioned principally by the conduct of a Zemindar of the name of Porty Sing, who, presuming upon the strength of a fort that he possessed, and a garrison which he had collected, composed of May Walties, and other freebooters, not only refused to pay his revenues, but formed a league with the neighbouring Zemindars, sent parties to plunder the surrounding country, and instead of obeying my summons to attend and settle his annual Bundabust, fired at my people when they arrived within gunshot of his fort, which, after such conduct, I thought it absolutely necessary to attack.

‘ For

' For want of battering cannon, or any kind of
 ' artillery, but three honeycomb field pieces, I am
 ' obliged, in carrying on my approaches, to have re-
 ' course to the tedious process of sap. However, as
 ' I have now advanced, and am securely intrenched
 ' within fifty yards of the Rampart, I hope in three
 ' days at furthest to put the farmer in possession of the
 ' fort, which will enable him to make an immediate
 ' settlement and collection of his revenues, and pre-
 ' vent any Zemindar in future from withholding his
 ' Kist, on a supposition that his fort is not to be
 ' taken, as few others can be found in this country
 ' so strong as Vizier Gunge. I was induced myself
 ' to take this necessary service, from his Excellency
 ' the Vizier having, on a former occasion, when I
 ' applied for the assistance of a battalion from Futy
 ' Ghur, refused me any kind of military aid; and
 ' acquainted me, through the Resident at his Court,
 ' that I must trust to the Nuzzeibs allowed me to assist
 ' in my collections, for such services as should be
 ' found necessary. Should I succeed against Vizier
 ' Gunge, and be able to make a temporary settlement
 ' in Marara, I hope not to have further occasion for
 ' military force for some time, as the collections in
 ' the rest of the Pergunnahs are made as fast as can
 ' be expected, considering the dearth of rain, and
 ' scanty first crop the lands have of course produced.

' It is at present utterly impossible for me to deter-
 ' mine, with any degree of accuracy, what amount
 ' I shall be able to remit in the course of the present
 ' year, in liquidation of his Excellency's demands on
 ' the Nabob Mozuffer Jung. But, considering to
 ' how trifling a sum the collections of Farruckabad,
 ' for the last three years, amounted, the late want of
 ' rain, and the necessity of leaving in the hands of the
 ' Nabob, his family, and numerous relations and
 ' followers, at least a maintenance, I should conceive
 ' the sum specified in his Excellency the Vizier's as-
 ' signments exceeds by much that which I shall be
 ' able to remit. I can only say, that no effort shall,
 ' on my part, be wanting to render the latter as con-
 ' siderable as possible. I shall in all probability be
 ' able to form an opinion upon the subject with
 ' greater precision in the course of a few days, when I
 ' purpose going to Lucknow. In the interim, a copy
 ' of the Kist Bundie of any former year would, I
 ' conceive, be the best guide that could be found in
 ' forming one for the present; as it cannot well be
 ' expected, considering my short residence in this

‘ place, the present state of the country, &c. that any
 ‘ considerable increase of this year’s revenue will be
 ‘ possible.

‘ Inclosed you will be pleased to receive bills of
 ‘ exchange, amounting to twenty thousand Rupees,
 ‘ in part payment of the Nabob Mozuffer Jung’s tri-
 ‘ bute to his Excellency the Vizier.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Curfance,
 15th Dec. 1780.

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ GEORGE SHEE.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esq.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the honour to inclose bills of exchange,
 ‘ amounting to Lucknow Rupees 33,606. 14. on ac-
 ‘ count his Excellency the Vizier’s assignments to
 ‘ the Honourable Company on Farruckabad.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.

‘ Farruckabad,
 ‘ 19th January 1781.’

‘ G. S H E E.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esq.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the honour to inclose your bills of ex-
 ‘ change for twenty thousand Lucknow Sicca Rupees,
 ‘ on account his Excellency the Vizier’s assignments
 ‘ on Farruckabad.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Farruckabad,
 ‘ 17th February 1781.

‘ Sir, &c.

‘ G. S H E E.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ Inclosed you will please to receive bills of ex-
 ‘ change for twenty thousand Rupees, on account his
 ‘ Excellency’s assignments to the Honourable Com-
 ‘ pany on Farruckabad.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.

‘ Farruckabad,
 ‘ 23d March 1781.

‘ GEORGE SHEE.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ Inclosed you will please to receive bills of ex-
 ‘ change on Lucknow, amounting to twenty-five
 ‘ thousand Rupees, which I request you will pass to
 ‘ the credit of my collections.

‘ Farruckabad,
 ‘ 9th April 1781.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.

‘ GEORGE SHEE.’

‘ To

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ Inclosed you will please to receive thirty thousand
‘ Rupees in bills of exchange on Lucknow, on ac-
‘ count of his Excellency’s assignments to the honour-
‘ able Company on Farruckabad.

‘ I am, Sir, &c.

‘ Farruckabad,

‘ GEORGE SHEE.’

‘ 30th April.

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Collector Ge-
‘ neral, &c. Lucknow.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the honour to inclose bills of exchange on
‘ Lucknow for half a lack of Rupees, for which I
‘ request you will please to give credit to the collec-
‘ tions under my charge.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient, and

‘ most humble servant,

‘ (Signed) GEORGE SHEE,

‘ Farruckabad,

‘ Collector of the Vizier’s

‘ 20th May 1781.

‘ assignments at Farruckabad.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esq. Collector General,
‘ &c. Lucknow.

‘ Sir,

‘ I had the honour to address you on the 20th ul-
‘ timo, inclosing bills of exchange for fifty thousand
‘ Rupees, on account the collections under my
‘ charge. The intention of my present address is
‘ solely to cover a remittance of forty-six thousand
‘ two hundred and ninety-three Rupees two Annas,
‘ on the same account.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient,

‘ humble servant,

‘ (Signed) GEORGE SHEE.

‘ Farruckabad,

‘ Collector of the Vizier’s

‘ 16th June 1781.

‘ assignments on Farruckabad.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire.

‘ Sir,

‘ Some thieves having broke into Lieutenant
‘ Hutchinson’s Bungalow here a few nights ago, and
‘ robbed him, he dispatched Hircarrahs in quest of
‘ them,

‘ them, who came up with them in Farruckabad,
 ‘ where they had been detected in the same practices,
 ‘ and where a crowd had assembled round them. One
 ‘ of the thieves in the scuffle dropt a white
 ‘ Chillumchee, belonging to Lieutenant Hutchinson,
 ‘ which his Hircarrahs knowing, they immediately
 ‘ called for assistance, when four fellows, who had
 ‘ committed the robbery, were apprehended and con-
 ‘ fined in a guard which Mr. Shee the Collector
 ‘ mounts in Farruckabad.

‘ As I understand this gentleman is under your
 ‘ orders, I request you will be pleased to inform me,
 ‘ as soon as possible, whether he is invested with the
 ‘ government of that city, and with the exclusive
 ‘ power there, as it would seem by his letter to Cap-
 ‘ tain Serymgcour, in reply to a note which he had
 ‘ sent him by my direction, (a copy of which corres-
 ‘ pondence I have the honour to inclose you,) that
 ‘ he considers himself in this light, by declaring that
 ‘ he has guards there, and that he should not have
 ‘ delivered up the prisoners, had they still been in his
 ‘ custody; his exception to Captain Serymgcor’s note
 ‘ is certainly without reason, and his answer to it
 ‘ very improper.

‘ I wrote to the Nabob of Farruckabad, requesting
 ‘ he would deliver up the prisoners in question; but
 ‘ he declines it, through apprehension of the collector,
 ‘ and declares *he has no power to put his orders in exe-*
 ‘ *cution*: as this is the case, I shall not take the pri-
 ‘ soners per force out of his jail, but shall order a de-
 ‘ tachment of sufficient strength to take post in the
 ‘ city, for the purpose of apprehending persons ac-
 ‘ cused of crimes committed in Cantonments; and
 ‘ the officer commanding this detachment will have
 ‘ my orders to perform his duty, whatever opposition
 ‘ he may meet with, and from whatever quarter it
 ‘ comes. I have informed the Nabob of Farrucka-
 ‘ bad, that all persons committing crimes in Far-
 ‘ ruckabad, or the surrounding districts, (not being
 ‘ Sepoys or followers of the camp,) should be deli-
 ‘ vered up on his application; and that I expect he
 ‘ will pay the same attention to my application to
 ‘ him, it being necessary, for the sake of example,
 ‘ that criminals should, if possible, be punished on
 ‘ the spot where the crime was committed.

‘ As I consider Mr. Shee as being under your or-
 ‘ ders, I shall take no step therefore towards sending
 ‘ troops into the city, till I receive your answer to
 ‘ this letter. I was given to understand, that Mr.
 ‘ Shee

‘ Shee was only to be considered as a collector, and
 ‘ that the government and executive power were vest-
 ‘ ed in the Nabob; but it appears, that Mr. Shee
 ‘ considers all the officers of government as under
 ‘ his direction, and issues his orders to them as such,
 ‘ and that the Nabob of Farruckabad also receives
 ‘ his orders. I request you will give him directions
 ‘ to desist from any interference with the government
 ‘ of the city, the near neighbourhood of which ren-
 ‘ ders it a very convenient asylum for all persons
 ‘ guilty of crimes in these Cantonments.

‘ The Governor General being invested with the
 ‘ full powers of government, during his absence from
 ‘ the presidency, I shall take occasion to state this
 ‘ matter to him, when I have the honour of seeing
 ‘ him; but the posting troops in the city will de-
 ‘ pend on your answer.

‘ I am, &c.

‘ Head Quarters, ‘ JOHN CUMMING.’
 ‘ Futy Ghur, Aug. 1st.

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at
 ‘ Lucknow.

‘ Sir,

‘ In obedience to the commands of the Honourable
 ‘ the Governor General, I beg leave to send, accom-
 ‘ panying this, an account of my collections and
 ‘ disbursements, to the time of my removal from
 ‘ office; also such other papers as were in my posses-
 ‘ sion regarding the Vizier’s assignments on Farrucka-
 ‘ bad, agreeable to the following list.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient servant,

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) GEORGE SHEE.’
 ‘ 6th Dec. 1781.’

‘ 40 Farmers bonds, as per particular list.

‘ Jumma Waufool Baukey, for 1187.

‘ Ditto — — — for 1188.

‘ Ditto — — — for 1189.

‘ 14 Shroffs Rookas, for Rs. 8137.

‘ Attested copies of each Farmer’s Phurd Wuffool,
 ‘ signed and sealed by him, specifying the exact
 ‘ sum he has paid me to the time of my removal.

‘ Paper explaining the Phurd Wuffools.

‘ Ditto explaining the Bonds.

‘ The Aumil Deepchund’s Waufool Baukey, 3
 ‘ papers.

‘ Waufool

- ‘ Wauffaulath of the Purgunnahs of Cumpull,
- ‘ Caimunge, Sawar, Puttially.
- ‘ Hysab Jumma Khurtch between the Vizier and
- ‘ the Collector.
- ‘ Ditto between the Nabob Murzuffer Jung and
- ‘ the Collector.
- ‘ Jumma Wauffool Baukey of the Vizier’s de-
- ‘ mands and receipts from Farruckabad.
- ‘ Attested copy of the Nabob Murzuffer Jung’s
- ‘ Naib’s declaration regarding the adjustment of
- ‘ the Farmers accounts.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
‘ Vizier’s Court.

‘ Sir,

‘ I beg leave to send you with this two Elephants,
‘ which were received by a former Sizawal of Far-
‘ ruckabad, from one of the Aumils, as a security
‘ for a balance due by him of five thousand Rupees.
‘ Finding the recovery of this sum impracticable, I
‘ thought it advisable to bring with me the Ele-
‘ phants; and I beg you will be pleased to credit my
‘ collections for their amount.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient servant,

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) GEORGE SHEE.’
‘ 10th Dec. 1781.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
‘ Vizier’s Court.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with the receipt of your
‘ letter, dated the 14th ultimo, directing that I trans-
‘ mit you every authentic information I can give on
‘ the subject of the late Raja Cheit Sing’s intrigues
‘ at Farruckabad; also, that I acquaint you of the
‘ state of that country, and disposition of its inhabi-
‘ tants, during the late rebellion at Benares.

‘ In obedience to your command, I beg leave to
‘ inform you, that though I had it not in my power,
‘ at the period to which you allude, to intercept any
‘ letter from the rebel Cheit Sing to the Nabob of
‘ Farruckabad, or by other means to obtain any do-
‘ cument on which to found a positive charge of dis-
‘ affection against any particular individual of note,
‘ I had still grounds sufficient to produce in my mind
‘ the most positive conviction, that a large body of
‘ Patans,

‘ Patans, impatiently waiting a favourable opportunity
 ‘ to join any power hostile to the Company or adverse
 ‘ to his Excellency the Vizier.

‘ For near three weeks, the town of Morva Place,
 ‘ distant about ten Coss from Farruckabad, has exhib-
 ‘ ited a continued scene of warlike preparation.—
 ‘ During this period, I repeatedly sent persons, on
 ‘ whose veracity I could rely, to obtain intelligence
 ‘ regarding the object proposed by such armament;
 ‘ and the information I uniformly received was, that
 ‘ the Nabob Murzuffer Jung had privately ordered
 ‘ several Patan chiefs to collect their followers, and
 ‘ hold themselves in readiness to join his standard at
 ‘ a moment’s warning.—I was more inclined to give
 ‘ credit to this intelligence than I otherwise should
 ‘ have been, from a circumstance I have already had
 ‘ the honour to communicate to you, namely, the
 ‘ Gofain Ilimut Bahadur, and a person of the name
 ‘ of Maharban Kan, formerly Naib to Murzuffer
 ‘ Jung, having separately written letters, the originals
 ‘ of which are in my possession, to an Aumil of note
 ‘ in the country of Farruckabad, enjoining him, in
 ‘ the most pressing terms, to prepare magazines of
 ‘ grain and other necessaries for an army, which they
 ‘ assured him would accompany them, in the course
 ‘ of a very few days, into his the Aumil’s Purgun-
 ‘ nas, from the country of Nudjiff Cawn; and di-
 ‘ recting him, on no pretence, to pay any part of his
 ‘ revenues to any person whatever, previous to their
 ‘ arrival. Were the Nabob Murzuffer Jung possessed
 ‘ of judgment sufficient to distinguish right from
 ‘ wrong, or to determine between that line of politi-
 ‘ cal conduct which tended to the advancement of his
 ‘ interest, and that likely to cause his ruin, I should
 ‘ not conceive a possibility of his entering into cor-
 ‘ respondence with the enemies of those by whose
 ‘ protection he exists; but, when his natural weak-
 ‘ ness is considered, the perpetual course of debauchery
 ‘ and dissipation in which he lives, and the corrup-
 ‘ tion and baseness of the persons by whose counsels
 ‘ he is ruled, I must confess, there is no act of folly,
 ‘ political or private, I should think too great in de-
 ‘ gree for him to perform.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient servant,

‘ Farruckabad, ‘ (Signed) GEORGE SHEE.’
 ‘ 18th Nov. 1781.’

G

‘ To

' To Richard Johnson, Esquire, Resident at the Vi-
' zier's Court.

' Sir,

' I have this day been honoured with your letter
' of the 22d instant. Agreeable to your orders, I
' shall march for Farruckabad, and halt at Futtu
' Ghur, until I receive further instructions.

' I shall begin my march, immediately upon my
' being joined by the two companies at Sumroota,
' cross the Ganges at Dalmow, and take the route
' of Corah, Chychindy, and near by Kenoge, as it
' is the best route for Guns, and of consequence the
' shortest. As part of my ammunition is damaged,
' I would beg a letter from you to Colonel Morgan,
' to have serviceable ammunition sent me to Chy-
' chindy, in lieu of it, for which I shall indent, that
' I may not be detained.

' I have the honour to be,

' Sir,

' Yours, &c.

' (Signed)

THO. SCOTT,

' Camp, near Peernagur, ' Major 3d Reg. Sepoys.'
' 25th Aug. 1782.'

' Camp, near Peernagur, 28th Aug. 1782:

' Sir,

' I have the honour to inform you, that being
' joined by the companies I had at Sumroota, I leave
' Peernagur with my detachment this night.

' I have the honour to be, Sir,

' Yours, &c.

' (Signed)

THO. SCOTT, Major
' Commanding a detach. 2d Brigade.'

' To Richard Johnson, Esquire,
' Resident at the Vizier's Court.'

' To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
' Vizier's Court, Lucknow.

' Sir,

' I acquainted Mr. Johnson of my having left the
' detachment and proceeded by Dawk to Cawnpore,
' to have a supply of ammunition in place of what I
' had damaged, and which was absolutely necessary
' to have.

' The detachment will be at Chychindy to-morrow
' morning; every thing will be in readiness for them
' by the 12th, and I shall march them from that the
' same night, by the route of Surajapore, Mucken-
' pore,

‘ pore, &c. to Futtý Ghur. I was just now acquaint-
 ‘ ed by Major Mac Donald of your being at Luck-
 ‘ now, or would have done myself the honour to
 ‘ have addressed you on my arrival.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your, &c.

‘ (Signed) ‘ THO. SCOTT, Major
 ‘ Commanding a detach. 2nd Brigade.’

‘ Cawnpore,
 ‘ 10th Sept. 1782.’

‘ Camp near Farruckabad, Sept. 22d, 1782.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been honoured with your letter of the 19th
 ‘ instant; and shall, if there appears any danger of
 ‘ opposition to the Sezawal and his Dewan, remain
 ‘ a few days longer, and afterwards proceed, agree-
 ‘ able to your instructions, through Berelly, to Cazan
 ‘ Ally Khan, Collector of the districts in Rohil-
 ‘ cund.

‘ I was reached upon, the day after my arrival, by
 ‘ Subkt Ulla Khan; and gave him my advice, to
 ‘ comply with the orders sent him. I as yet have
 ‘ not seen Ray Harranund, nor Mahomed Seyed
 ‘ Khan, from which I conclude they have no danger
 ‘ of opposition to their measures; as, if they had, I
 ‘ make no doubt they would have been with me some
 ‘ days ago, and paid me every mark of attention:
 ‘ When I see them, I shall be better able to judge
 ‘ how matters are, and act accordingly.

‘ I have the honour to be, Sir,

‘ Your’s, &c.

‘ (Signed) ‘ THO. SCOTT,
 ‘ Major commanding.’

‘ To Nath. Middleton,
 ‘ Esq. Residt. at the
 ‘ Court of the Vizier.’

‘ Major Thomas Scott to Mr. Middleton.

‘ Sir,

‘ At the request of the Sezawal and his Dewan, I
 ‘ have agreed to remain here until I have your
 ‘ answer. They think they are not in safety, if I
 ‘ should march from this; but, as so many batta-
 ‘ lions are said to be upon their road here, I think I
 ‘ may with safety leave this; and the business, at all

‘ events, will be easily transacted when the troops
‘ arrive.

‘ I have the honour to be, Sir,

‘ Yours, &c.

‘ (Signed) THO. SCOTT.’

‘ Camp near Farruckabad,

‘ 25th Sept. 1782.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
‘ Court of the Vizier.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have the honour of your letter of the 29th
‘ Sept. and shall, agreeable to your orders, remain at
‘ this place, and afford such assistance to the Sezawal
‘ as he may deem requisite, until I receive your fur-
‘ ther orders.

‘ It appears, from what I can learn, that the de-
‘ mands of the Sezawal will not be complied with,
‘ unless force is used; and, from the disposition of
‘ the country, and the Patans in Farruckabad, it must
‘ be used with caution, otherways the Sezawal and
‘ his Dewan would be cut off before they could be
‘ assisted from my camp.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your, &c.

‘ (Signed) THO. SCOTT,

‘ Camp near Farruckabad,

‘ Major Comg.’

‘ 1st October, 1782.’

‘ Camp near Farruckabad, 6th Oct. 1782.

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
‘ Court of the Vizier.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have seen Herranun, but it is several days ago;
‘ neither do I know from him, nor Mahomed Seyd
‘ Khan, any thing of their transactions; but from
‘ other channels I have learned as much as induces
‘ me to believe, that Meer Subkt Ulla is collecting
‘ more people; he has now more than 1500, mostly
‘ Patans, about his house, where he remains shut up:
‘ he used frequently to come to my camp, but of late
‘ has not.

‘ The attendants of the Sezawal and the Naib’s
‘ people are daily quarrelling; I expect therefore,
‘ hourly, there will be a disturbance in Farruckabad,
‘ and should be glad to receive your instructions.

‘ The

‘ The streets are narrow, houses high, and of
 ‘ stone in brick, and gateways several within the
 ‘ town. The house that the Naid Meer Subt Ulla
 ‘ is now in is large, and well inclosed, on which the
 ‘ 6 pounder, I intended carrying for field service,
 ‘ would have no impresson; I should be happy that
 ‘ a couple of 12 or 18 pounders were sent me, with
 ‘ sufficient ammunition and people for them, from
 ‘ Lucknow, which would place me in a situation that
 ‘ I could assert, and open myself a way, if occasion
 ‘ required it. There are iron 18 pounders that I
 ‘ brought up to Suja Ull Dowlah in the Rohilla
 ‘ campaign, which are good, and would answer all
 ‘ purposes.

‘ As I am, should Subkt Ulla Khan, the Naib,
 ‘ commence an attack, and keep in the town, my
 ‘ situation would be very awkward indeed.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir, your, &c.

‘ (Signed) THO. SCOTT, Major,
 ‘ Commanding at Farruckabad.’

‘ To Nathaniel Middleton, Esquire, Resident at the
 ‘ Court of the Vizier.

‘ Sir,

‘ Since I did myself the honour to address you last,
 ‘ every thing is settled here; the former Naib, Subkt
 ‘ Ulla Khan, has left the country, and the people he
 ‘ had collected dispersed; and, as Mahomed Sud
 ‘ Kan, the Sezawul, acquaints me he has no further
 ‘ occasion for assistance, I shall be happy to be ho-
 ‘ noured with your orders respecting my marching, or
 ‘ remaining here.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir, your very, &c. &c.

‘ (Signed) THO. SCOTT,
 ‘ Camp near Farruckabad, ‘ Major Commanding.’
 ‘ 20th October 1782.’

‘ To the Honourable Board.

‘ Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

‘ I have been duly honoured with your letter of
 ‘ the 22d ultimo, appointing Mr. George Shee, in
 ‘ the place of the native Sezawal, to collect the Vi-
 ‘ zier’s assignment to the Company on the Nabob of
 ‘ Farruckabad.

‘ Mr. Shee having been some days arrived, has re-
 ‘ ceived my instructions, and the necessary papers
 ‘ and

‘ and informations, to fulfil the intentions of his appointment, and will set off for Farruckabad this evening.

‘ It having always been customary for the Nabob to grant a Perwannah on a new appointment of this kind, I yesterday waited upon his Excellency with Mr. Shee, and informed him that Mr. Shee had waited on him to take his leave, to proceed to his appointment, and that I requested he would give his Perwannah. His Excellency answered, that the Tunçaw was given to the Company, and that the appointment was at my disposal, but declined giving the Perwannah.

‘ I am, with respect, &c. &c.

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’
‘ 17th June 1780.’

‘ To the Honourable Board.

‘ Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

‘ As difference of opinion having arisen between Mr. Shee and me, concerning Mozuffer Jung’s annual deputation of a person to the Nabob Vizier, in order to adjust the accounts of the past, and the demand for the ensuing year, I beg leave to transmit you our correspondence on this subject, and hope you will be pleased to signify your determination thereon.

‘ Mr. Shee has desired I will likewise transmit you a correspondence concerning a recommendation I made to him for the acceptance of a proposal from Almas Ally Khaun, and the reduction of the fort of Nedouly, in the province of Farruckabad.

‘ I am, with respect,

‘ Honourable Sir, and Gentlemen,

‘ Yours, &c. &c.

‘ Lucknow, ‘ (Signed) C. PURLING.’
‘ Oct. 7th, 1780.’

‘ To the Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor
‘ General, & c. &c. &c.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have herewith the honour to submit to you, an account of my current claims for the present year upon the Nabob Vizier, amounting to Rupees 70,99,882, for which amount I have received assignments, as per the inclosed list, for Rupees 76,38,114, in which I have been necessitated to include the Nabob’s demand for the current year upon
‘ Far-

' Farruckabad; and as his Excellency has now to-
 ' tally withdrawn his Sezawool from the collection of
 ' it, as well as every interference whatever, I beg I
 ' may be honoured with your instructions, whether
 ' Muzuffer Jung is to pay the amount at the Presi-
 ' dency, or, as usual, to me. Khyragur is in the
 ' same predicament, the Vizier having no authority
 ' over the present Aumil; the rest I have little doubt
 ' of receiving. For the large balance now due from
 ' the Nabob, I am given strong hopes of receiving
 ' assets from the funds expected by the recovery of
 ' the Nabob's paternal estate, hitherto withheld by
 ' his mother, but which he has now demanded. The
 ' result is yet in suspense; as soon as any certainty
 ' of the grounds of this expectation can be deter-
 ' mined, and may come to my knowledge, I shall
 ' not fail to impart it to you.

' The new regulation of resuming the Jaghires is
 ' carrying into execution in every part of these ex-
 ' tensive provinces, and when effected, will afford a
 ' very material increase in the Nabob's revenues.

' The order of 7 lacks upon them could not be
 ' increased this year, as, before the seizure can be
 ' completed, the collections upon the first crop will
 ' be over; besides which, many of the Jagherdars
 ' having strong family claims upon the Nabob, he
 ' has been obliged to assign ready money payment in
 ' lieu of the rents of the lands.

' I have the honour to be, &c. &c.

' (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.'

' Lucknow,
 ' 30th Dec 1781.'

' Extract of a Letter from Nath. Middleton to the
 ' Honourable Warren Hastings, Governor Gene-
 ' ral, and the members of the Supreme Council,
 ' Fort William; dated Lucknow, the 7th Sep-
 ' tember 1782.

' Upon the 6th Article, the Honourable Board
 ' have anticipated my reply, by adverting to what
 ' they conjecture may have been the cause of the total
 ' failure in the collections from Farruckabad, which
 ' was, as they have justly supposed, an improper ad-
 ' vantage taken by Murzuffer Jung of the mediation
 ' employed with the Nabob Vizier in his behalf. I
 ' have therefore, immediately upon receipt of your
 ' orders, withdrawn all mediation and interference
 ' which stood between the Nabob Vizier and the col-
 ' lection

' lection of his tribute from Farruckabad, and afford-
 ' ed him the assistance directed, by sending a regi-
 ' ment to support the Sezawal appointed by his Ex-
 ' cellency for the collection of the tribute of the en-
 ' suing year, and have added my instructions to the
 ' same agent, to collect the assignment of seven and
 ' half lacks, first above-mentioned, upon the tribute
 ' and balances due to the end of the current year;
 ' and as I have anticipated the success of this trust,
 ' by raising this amount among the other balances, as
 ' above stated, I have the satisfaction to reflect that
 ' the Honourable Board will not even feel the incon-
 ' veniency arising from the delay that the mediation
 ' in favour of Murzuffer Jung has occasioned.

' It may be proper to explain, that the excess of
 ' disbursements beyond the estimated amount, has
 ' arisen from two causes——the first was, that the
 ' troops of Futtý Ghur, and Mr. Wombwell's office
 ' and establishment, received their pay and allowances
 ' beyond the date stipulated by treaty, (upon which
 ' the estimate was made,) because the Nabob's finan-
 ' ces not being adequate to the immediate discharge
 ' of their balances, and this being a previous condi-
 ' tion of the treaty, their pay and usual disbursements
 ' went on, until they could be fully paid up.——
 ' Secondly, The army debts were rated in the esti-
 ' mate at five lacks, and have in the result much ex-
 ' ceeded that sum, which unavoidably caused the di-
 ' version of assets to that channel, which were ex-
 ' pressly granted and intended for other purposes.—
 ' This unforeseen accumulation of the army debts,
 ' and the preference which it was my duty to shew to
 ' the Honourable Company's claims, have necessarily
 ' retarded the payment of the late Vizier's promised
 ' donation to the 2d Brigade, which I hope will
 ' meet your approbation, as that sum, as well as the
 ' fourteen lacks unliquidated of the Honourable Com-
 ' pany's new claim, will be an easy provision with
 ' the current demands of the ensuing year, the full
 ' amount of which I have not a doubt of being able
 ' to realize.

' I am willing to flatter myself, that, under your
 ' indulgence, I shall appear to have acquitted myself
 ' of the responsibility annexed to my office, your
 ' public testimony upon which I am the more anxi-
 ' ous to merit, as the many unforeseen and uncom-
 ' mon obstacles which have occurred in the course
 ' of this year, rendered me apprehensive, that the
 ' effects

‘ effects of my exertions might fall short of your expectations.

‘ I have the honour to be,
‘ with great respect,

‘ Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

‘ Your most obedient humble servant,

‘ (Signed) NATH. MIDDLETON.’

‘ Lucknow,

‘ 7th Sept. 1782.’

‘ To Mr. John Bristow, Resident at the Court of
‘ the Nabob of Oude.

‘ Sir,

‘ We have received intelligence from the Nabob
‘ Muzuffer Jung, at Farruckabad, that he has been
‘ deprived of authority, and reduced to great indigence and distress, by the knavery of his servants, and by the means of Monickram, late Banian to Major Polier: That about ten weeks ago he dispatched his Vakeel, Subjutula Cawn, with letters representing his situation, addressed to this Board; and some original Sunnuds which had been granted by the King to his ancestors; but his minister Mahurbaun Cawn, who keeps him under great constraint, detecting the charge intrusted to his Vakeel, caused him, through the treachery of the said Monickram, to be thrown into confinement, by order of the Nabob Asoph ul Dowla; and it is supposed, that by the same means he has got possession of the Sunnuds and papers from the Vakeel. We desire you will immediately enquire into the truth of the circumstances above related, and obtain from the Nabob Asoph ul Dowla an order for the release of the Vakeel, with a passport from him to proceed to this Presidency.

‘ We are, Sir,

‘ Your humble servants,

‘ (Signed) ‘ WARREN HASTINGS,

‘ J. CLAVERING,

‘ Fort William, ‘ GEO. MONSON,

‘ 29th Nov. 1775.’ ‘ RICH. BARWELL,

‘ P. FRANCIS.’

‘ To Mr. Charles Purling, Resident at the Court of
‘ the Nabob of Oude.

‘ Sir,

‘ The Nabob Muzzuffer Jung, of Farruckabad,
‘ having frequently complained to this government,

H

of

' of the hardships and indignities to which he is
 ' subjected by the conduct of the Sizauwol stationed
 ' in his country for the purpose of receiving the an-
 ' nual tribute, which he is bound by treaty to pay
 ' to the Subah of Oude, and which has invariably
 ' constituted a part of the funds assigned by his Ex-
 ' cellency for the liquidation of the public demands
 ' of the Company upon him; and thinking it in-
 ' cumbent on us to use such means as occur to us to
 ' be most expedient to his relief, we have thought
 ' proper to appoint Mr. George Shee, one of the ci-
 ' vil servants of the Company, in the place of the
 ' Native Sizauwol, to collect the Vizier's assignment
 ' to the Company on the Nabob of Farruckabad,
 ' with the same allowances, establishment, and powers,
 ' that have been given to the said Sizauwol. Mr.
 ' George Shee has been directed to proceed with all
 ' possible expedition to Lucknow; on his arrival at
 ' which place, we desire you will invest him with
 ' the charge of the office to which we have appoint-
 ' ed him, and give him such instructions for his
 ' conduct in the discharge of it as you may think
 ' necessary.

' We are, Sir,

' Your obedient humble servants,

' (Signed) ' WARREN HASTINGS,
 ' Fort William, ' P. FRANCIS;
 ' 22d May, 1780.' ' EDW. WHEELER.'

' To Mr. George Shee, Collector of the Company's
 ' Assignments, &c. Farruckabad.

' Sir,

' Your services in the collection of the Company's
 ' assignments on the district of Farruckabad being no
 ' longer required, you will be pleased to make over
 ' your accounts to the Resident at the Court of the
 ' Nabob Vizier, and repair to the Presidency.

' I am, Sir,

' Your most obedient servant,

' (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.'

' Chunar,

' 23d Sept. 1781.'

' To

To Mr. Nathaniel Middleton, Resident at the Vizier's Court, Lucknow.

Sir,

I have annulled the office of collector to the Company's assignments at Farruckabad, and directed Mr. Shee, the Collector, to repair to Lucknow and settle his accounts with you, for which you will give him proper discharges when adjusted.

The Nabob Muzuffer Jung having acquainted me with his apprehensions of being called to Lucknow, in order to answer the demands of the Vizier upon him for tribute, &c. and having represented the disgrace and indignity to which he should be subjected by that measure, I desire that you will urge the minister not to exact the personal attendance of the Nabob for adjusting of these claims, but to admit of their being settled by such person as he shall depute for that purpose.

The injuries and indignities, which the Nabob Mozuffer Jung has for a series of years sustained from the Court of Lucknow, reflect highly on the humanity and good faith of the Vizier; nor is our government entirely exempted from the odium which has attended such treatment, since it is a matter of public notoriety, that unremitting application, since the year 1776, has been made by the Nabob Mozuffer Jung, for the interposition of our good offices towards alleviating his distresses. From the treaties subsisting between them, it does not appear that the Vizier has the smallest claim of sovereignty over Mozuffer Jung, or right to exercise authority of any kind over his person or dominions. No pretence is made of his having violated his engagements, or of having acted inimically towards the Vizier, nor have I heard a single reason assigned for the usurpations committed on his property and independency. When to all these considerations is added, the friendly disposition which Ahmud Khawn, the father of Mozuffer Jung, manifested on several occasions towards the Company, I think it incumbent upon me to exert the influence of our government with the Vizier, for the relief and protection of Mozuffer Jung. I therefore desire that you will use such means as your situation of Resident affords you, to prevent any further interference of the Vizier or his ministers in the internal management of the country of Farruckabad; but that the Nabob be left in the free exercise of his un-

‘ doubted authority over his Subahdary, whilst he
 ‘ continues to execute with fidelity his engagements
 ‘ to the Vizier. I have written to his Excellency to
 ‘ the above effect.

‘ I am, Sir,

‘ Your most obedient humble servant,

‘ (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.’

‘ Benares,

‘ Nov. 10th 1781.’

‘ Extract of a Letter to Mr. Middleton.

‘ We observe that you have not received any part
 ‘ of the sum expected from Farruckabad, and are
 ‘ surprized that you have not intimated, either in
 ‘ your letters to the Board, or to the Governor Ge-
 ‘ neral, the circumstances which have prevented you
 ‘ from receiving any part of the sum expected from
 ‘ the Nabob Mozuffer Jung; should they proceed
 ‘ from an advantage taken by him of our mediation
 ‘ with the Nabob Vizier, we direct that you do im-
 ‘ mediately afford him effectual assistance for the re-
 ‘ covery of what may be due to him from Mozuffer
 ‘ Jung, and expressly withdraw all other interference
 ‘ with that Nabob.

‘ We are, Sir,

‘ Your, &c.

‘ (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS,

‘ Fort William, EDW. WHELER.’

‘ 11th July 1782.’

‘ Translation of a Letter from the Resident at the
 ‘ Vizier’s Court to the Nabob of Farruckabad.

(After the usual compliments.)

‘ I have received your letter’ (recapitulates its con-
 tents.)

‘ The generous and liberal motives which in-
 ‘ duced the Governor General to employ the media-
 ‘ tion of the Company between the Nabob Vizier
 ‘ and you are known to the whole world, and re-
 ‘ quire from me no explanation. It is equally noto-
 ‘ rious what has been the effect produced by that me-
 ‘ diation, which, however you may have understood
 ‘ it, I am well assured was never meant to impede,
 ‘ still less wholly to preclude, the collection of the
 ‘ Nabob Vizier’s just claims upon you. The com-
 ‘ munications I have received from the Governor
 ‘ General,

' General, from the first to the last, respecting the
 ' nature and object of his indulgent mediation in
 ' your behalf, have corresponded invariably with my
 ' own opinion on that subject. In his first letter re-
 ' lative to this matter, he informs me that he has
 ' consented to exert his endeavours with the Vizier
 ' to remove the restraint and controul which had
 ' been laid upon you for the collection of the tribute,
 ' and to prevail on his Excellency to receive his dues
 ' through your agents, instead of employing his own,
 ' for which purpose he had given the necessary in-
 ' structions to Meer Suftoola Cawn, and dispatched
 ' him to the Nabob Vizier and myself, to adjust the
 ' accounts depending between you and his Excellency,
 ' and settle the future mode of payment. The Vizier
 ' most readily acceded to the Governor General's
 ' wishes on this point, and his Excellency's agents,
 ' and all sort of interference were in consequence in-
 ' stantly withdrawn: But this was done upon the
 ' faith of the Governor General's assurances, that you
 ' would take effectual care to prevent a measure, which
 ' had been adopted solely for your relief, from im-
 ' peding the Vizier's legal and just claims; and,
 ' agreeably to the intimation I had from the Gover-
 ' nor General, I waited patiently the arrival of Suft-
 ' toola Cawn; but to my utter surprize I learnt,
 ' that instead of coming here, as directed, he went
 ' straight to Farruckabad, and publicly declared you
 ' absolved from any further claims of the Vizier.
 ' This being so contrary to the Governor General's
 ' advices and commands to me, that I considered it
 ' merely a piece of artifice of Suftoola Cawn's to raise
 ' his own credit and consequence, and supposed you,
 ' as well as myself, imposed upon. Upon having re-
 ' peatedly written to you, in consequence of the Vi-
 ' zier's claim upon you having become a part of the
 ' funds assigned for the liquidation of his Excellency's
 ' engagements to the English Company, without re-
 ' ceiving any explicit or satisfactory answer, and no
 ' payments either made or seemingly intended, I was
 ' under the necessity of referring the matter to the
 ' consideration and decision of the Governor Gene-
 ' ral; who, seeing the improper advantage which had
 ' been taken by you and your agents of his well-in-
 ' tended mediation, to the great prejudice of the Vi-
 ' zier, and the consequent injury of the Company's
 ' engagements with him, thought proper to withdraw
 ' any further interference between you, and to leave
 ' the

‘ the Vizier uncontrouled in the prosecution of his
 ‘ just and reasonable claims upon you.

‘ The Vizier has thereupon been pleased to appoint
 ‘ a Sizauwol for the collection of the balances due
 ‘ from you, as also for the provision of funds for
 ‘ the payment of the ensuing year’s tribute; and it
 ‘ is proper to inform you, that, as before it was my
 ‘ duty to use every means in my power to prevent any
 ‘ interference with your government, so it now be-
 ‘ comes incumbent upon me to yield every assistance
 ‘ I may be able to the Nabob Vizier, to enable him
 ‘ to assert and recover those rights which the pervers-
 ‘ sion of an indulgence so generously procured for
 ‘ you, has hitherto withheld from him. What shall
 ‘ I say more?

‘ N. B. Mozuffer Jung, instead of tendering pay-
 ‘ ment of his tribute through his own agents, con-
 ‘ stantly denied owing any thing to the Vizier. He
 ‘ and his agents, during the whole year, appear to-
 ‘ tally to have mistaken the Governor General’s hu-
 ‘ mane interposition.

‘ The Vizier and his ministers, foreseeing this
 ‘ probable consequence, insisted upon the Farrucka-
 ‘ bad tribute being included among the Company’s
 ‘ assignments, as appears in the following extract of a
 ‘ letter from the Resident to the Governor General,
 ‘ dated 30th December 1781:

“ I have herewith the honour to submit to you an
 “ account of my current claims for the present year
 “ upon the Nabob Vizier, amounting to Rupees
 “ 70,99,882; for which amount I have received as-
 “ signments, as per the inclosed list, for Rupees
 “ 76,38,114, in which *I have been* NECESSITATED
 “ *to include the Nabob’s demand for the current year upon*
 “ *Farruckabad; and as his Excellency has now totally*
 “ *withdrawn his Sizauwol from the collection of it, as*
 “ *well as every interference whatever, I beg I may be*
 “ *honoured with your instructions, whether Mozuffer*
 “ *Jung is to pay the amount at the Presidency, or, as*
 “ *usual, to me?*—Khyraghur is in the same predica-
 “ ment, the Vizier having no authority over the pre-
 “ sent Aumil.”

To report a progress, &c.

Martis,

Martis, 27^o die Februarij 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON, Esquire, being called in;

And the order for the production of all his letter books, and other correspondence in his possession, relative to the public affairs of the province of Oude, and its dependencies, being read to him;

He was asked,

Have you received that order?

Yes. I have no correspondence relative to the affairs of Oude, but what is contained in the books I delivered in to the committee on Friday last.

Do those books contain the whole correspondence upon public matters during your residency at Oude?

I believe they do not. I believe I did not get complete copies of all the correspondence from the office at Lucknow.

Do the books contain all the correspondence above described, that has been at any time in your possession?

I cannot positively say they do; for I recollect to have left some correspondence at Lucknow, of which I have no copies.

With whom did you leave that correspondence?

I left it in the public office at Lucknow—in the Resident's office.

Had you no other correspondence with Mr. Hastings, or others, on the affairs of Oude, except those in the books delivered in, or left in the office at Lucknow?

I believe I had; for I have seen in the papers laid before this house, copies of private letters to Mr. Hastings, of which I kept no copies.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

Luna,

Lunæ, 5^o die Martii 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

CAPTAIN THOMAS MERCER called in, and examined.

Were you in Bengal in the year 1781?

I was.

Did you make any offer to any member of the government of Fort William, to purchase the whole of the Company's Opium at that time in Calcutta?

I did.

On what terms?

I cannot exactly ascertain whether it was 370 or 375 current Rupees per chest; I think it was 375, but I am not certain.

How much did the whole purchase amount to?

To the amount of five lacks of Rupees, I presume, or thereabouts. I was told there were 1300 chests; so I was informed.

In what manner did you offer to pay for it?

In ready money.

Then a member of the committee produced a letter, which being shewn to the witness;

He was asked,

Is that your hand-writing?

It is; I wrote it yesterday.

Do you recollect ever having spoken to Mr. Francis before this day?

I never did.

Then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And the said letter was read, and is as followeth:

‘ To Philip Francis, Esq.

‘ Sir,

‘ Major Webber having called some days since at my friend Mr. Walker's, in Upper Charlotte Street, to enquire if I was returned from Ireland, and Mr. Archdekin having called this morning when I was from home, and having mentioned to Mr. Walker

‘ the

the purport of the former gentleman's visit, as well as of his own, which was to enquire, for your information, whether any positive or specific offer had been made by me to Mr. Hastings for the purchase of a considerable quantity of Opium, which was exported on the account and risk of the Company, upon the pretext or supposition that merchants would not buy it as they always had done in the former years, and Mr. Archdekin having mentioned the probability of my being examined in a few days in the House of Commons, touching the above business, I shall take the liberty of relating in this letter all I know of it, to the end that you may judge whether such an examination is of any importance or not, in the present stage of East India business.

When the inutility and monstrous expence of the little Bengal Squadron of little men of war had fully appeared, and government thought proper in consequence thereof to sell the ships which composed it, I became the purchaser of the ship called the Resolution, and having followed no other than the trade to the Malay coast and China, and meaning to continue it even upon a larger scale than heretofore, and to increase the probability of success therein, I thought it expedient to proceed to Bombay, to dock and sheath my ship with copper.—This being done in June 1781, I arrived in Bengal in August of the same year, and had the mortification to be informed by my friend Mr. Charles Weston, that he had not provided any Opium for me, because, (said the honest man,) it has not been this year put up to public sale, upon a presumption that there would not be any buyers, and we are told that it is all to be exported on the Company's account, and the reason assigned for this novelty is, a presumed want of enterprize in the merchants to purchase.

Upon this occasion I joked a little with my honest friend, asking him if any rumours of my death or shipwreck had been circulated in Calcutta, for without that the Governor and Council might presume there would be at least one very considerable purchaser.

My friend Weston's information, corroborated by the general report of the town, that the Opium was this year to be exported on the Company's account, did not satisfy me.—I had prepared my ship at a large expence for an important voyage.—I was willing to buy Opium, and would not drop the de-

' sign until I should be informed by government au-
 ' thority that it could not be effected. With this
 ' view I repaired to Mr. Wheler, (Mr. Wheler at
 ' this time, August 1781, was acting Governor Ge-
 ' neral, and Council in his sole person, Mr. Hastings
 ' being then beleaguered or besieged in the fort of
 ' Chunar Ghur, in consequence of his memorable
 ' expedition to Benares,) and Mr. Wheler informed
 ' me, that it had been resolved to export the Opium
 ' of that year on the Company's account, and that
 ' this resolution had been taken from an opinion that
 ' merchants would not purchase as heretofore.—I ex-
 ' pressed both surprise and disappointment.—Surprise !
 ' because Charles Weston had an actual commission
 ' in his pocket to purchase a large quantity for me at
 ' whatever might be the market price, and to extend
 ' it still further and beyond my usual annual quan-
 ' tity in case the price was moderate.—Disappoint-
 ' ment ! because I had prepared my ship at a great
 ' expence for an Opium voyage, and did not at that
 ' moment know what to do with her.—Mr. W. said
 ' he was also sorry, and continuing the conversation,
 ' I saw that the exportation arrangement had been
 ' lately taken, for he. (Mr. W.) confessed, that the
 ' ship of Mr. Thornhill, which was to carry the
 ' Opium to China, was not then arrived from
 ' Bombay.

' Conceiving from this, that possibly the resolution
 ' of Council for exporting the Opium on the Com-
 ' pany's account was not irrevocably taken, I made
 ' what I thought a very bold, and what ought to have
 ' appeared a very advantageous offer to the Company,
 ' viz. to buy all the Company's Opium then in Cal-
 ' cutta, amounting to 1300 chests, and which was
 ' designed to be exported under the management of
 ' Mr. Thornhill, at the rate of 375 current Rupees
 ' per chest ; and, as it was well known that the trea-
 ' sury was at that time perfectly empty, I added, as
 ' an inducement, that I would pay the whole pur-
 ' chase money down in six days time.—Mr. Wheler
 ' refused, but in refusing he seemed to think it neces-
 ' sary to give reasons for rejecting a proposition which
 ' most men would have thought exceedingly apropos
 ' and convenient for the public emergencies ;——and
 ' certainly, Sir, his reasons were such as would not
 ' be offered by any one who had observed and reflect-
 ' ed upon the general management of the Company's
 ' commercial affairs in India ; for example—If, says
 ' he, you expect to make advantage by purchasing this
 ' Opium,

‘ Opium, and exporting it on your own account,
 ‘ why should not the Company expect an equal ad-
 ‘ vantage upon the exportation of it on their own
 ‘ accounts? To which I agreed, provided the Com-
 ‘ pany could find a man to serve them with the same
 ‘ fidelity and industry as Thomas Mercer would use
 ‘ in serving himself. There passed much other con-
 ‘ versation between us, and in conclusion he recom-
 ‘ mended to me to make my proposal to the Gover-
 ‘ nor general, then at Chunar Ghur.—This I refused
 ‘ to do, telling Mr. Wheler that the Governor Gene-
 ‘ ral would either not answer my letter, or give an
 ‘ ambiguous and shuffling answer to it; and I con-
 ‘ fess the last term, which is not a very respectful
 ‘ one, was purposely made use of, in order to observe
 ‘ the countenance of Mr. Wheler, and to discover
 ‘ whether any of the old impressions concerning Mr.
 ‘ Hastings still remained upon his mind. His answer
 ‘ and his manner both convinced me, that he had en-
 ‘ deavoured to efface them.—I am sorry, says he,
 ‘ Captain Mercer, to hear you express such sentiments
 ‘ of the Governor General. To which I replied,—
 ‘ I am a simple unaffected man, and have always,
 ‘ throughout my life, sacrificed to truth, what in
 ‘ many cases I might have gained by a complaisance
 ‘ for the passions and the foibles of great men, of
 ‘ whose weak sides I am not altogether ignorant,
 ‘ having had to do with several of them in different
 ‘ parts of the world.

‘ The audience was now closed, after telling Mr.
 ‘ Wheler that I would go home, and reduce my pro-
 ‘ positions into writing, and would send them to him
 ‘ on that day; observing, that when they should be
 ‘ permanently fixed upon paper, he would be better
 ‘ able to consider them with the attention which they
 ‘ deserved.

‘ This being done, and sent to Mr. Wheler, I re-
 ‘ ceived on the next day, either a note in writing, or
 ‘ a message, (for at this distance of time I cannot re-
 ‘ collect which,) desiring to see me; and having at-
 ‘ tended upon him accordingly, he told me, that he
 ‘ was sorry the resolutions of Council could not be
 ‘ rescinded; and, after a pause, he discovered his chief
 ‘ motive for desiring to see me, by asking, Whether I
 ‘ considered my letter as a public or a private applica-
 ‘ tion? I answered, That the matter of my letter
 ‘ was of public concern; but that, being perfectly
 ‘ indifferent as to the matter of appearing upon re-

‘ cord as a large dealer in Opium, I would leave it to
 ‘ himself, to do with it as he thought proper; for
 ‘ which he was pleased to thank me, and I took
 ‘ leave.

‘ The above contains the substance, and in many
 ‘ places the very words, which passed between Mr.
 ‘ Wheler and me, upon a subject which in the issue
 ‘ occasioned a very large loss to the Company. I
 ‘ had nothing to do with Mr. Hastings, and indeed
 ‘ refused to have any thing to do with him; for I
 ‘ knew his love of novelty, and the exportation of
 ‘ Opium to China being altogether novel, and attend-
 ‘ ed with hazard, as being contraband, I knew
 ‘ enough of his temper to be persuaded that he would
 ‘ maintain it with his wonted inflexibility.—I knew
 ‘ assuredly that the man who negotiated with the
 ‘ Berar Raja—who continued a war with the Marat-
 ‘ tas very long after he knew of the war with France
 ‘ —who would have given up the Northern Circars
 ‘ to the Nizam—and who would have ceded to the
 ‘ Dutch a valuable territory for the paltry and perfect-
 ‘ ly inefficacious assistance of two thousand undisci-
 ‘ plined topasses, could not be diverted from his pur-
 ‘ pose by any representations which I might make,
 ‘ and therefore I would not take the trouble of writ-
 ‘ ting to him, but I must do him justice, by de-
 ‘ claring my belief of his total ignorance of my pro-
 ‘ positions to Mr. Wheler, for I believe they were not
 ‘ communicated to him.

‘ I will not apologize to you, Sir, for the length-
 ‘ ened detail of the Opium business, because I think it
 ‘ will not offend you; but I have cause to ask par-
 ‘ don for the intrusion of the greatest part of this
 ‘ page, as being foreign to it, and unconnected with
 ‘ it; but it is not easy to suppress our indignation,
 ‘ when we hear a man trumpeted forth as the Saviour
 ‘ of India, in whose conduct we can scarcely discern
 ‘ any thing but folly and absolute Quixotism; of
 ‘ which the facts above-mentioned are palpable ex-
 ‘ amples.

‘ I have the honour to be, very respectfully,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient

‘ humble servant,

‘ Upper Charlotte Street,

‘ THO. MERCER.’

‘ 4 March, 1787.’

Mr.

Mr. WILLIAM YOUNG called in and examined.

Was you in Bengal in 1781?

I was.

In what situation was you there?

I was a covenanted civil servant of the East India Company, of the rank of senior merchant.

Had you any concern or interest in the performance of a contract for the provision of Opium, in the year 1781?

I had the conducting of the business of the contract.

What interest had you in that contract?

I was interested in the success of it.

To what extent?

I undertook the management of it upon certain conditions, and if any advantage arose from the performance of those conditions, that advantage was mine; or if any losses were the consequence of the failure of success, those losses were mine.

What were the conditions?

I feel some difficulty in answering that question, because I conceive it subjects me to a breach of private confidence; though there is nothing in it, respecting myself, that I can have any objection to communicate to the whole world. I do not refuse answering the question if the committee insist upon my answering it.

Then the question was repeated, and the witness was directed to answer it.

The conditions were, the payment of a certain sum of money annually, and running all risks as to the success or failure of the business.

What sum of money was you engaged to pay, and to whom?

I was engaged to pay 149,000 Rupees annually, and also to pay 10,000 Rupees, stipulated in the original contract, to the East India Company.

To whom was the annual payment to be made?

To Mr. John Benn, by half yearly instalments.

Who was the original contractor with government?

Mr. Stephen Sullivan.

What interest had Mr. Benn in the contract, and how did he acquire that interest?

I know of no other interest than that I have already stated.—I believe by purchase of Mr. Stephen Sullivan, as I purchased it of Mr. Benn.

What are your grounds for believing that Mr. Benn purchased it of Mr. Sullivan?

I understood it so from Mr. Benn himself.

What did Mr. Benn give for it?

I really do not know.

Was

Was the annual payment you mentioned for the duration of the contract?

The annual payment that I made was to Mr. Benn. For what period?

For four years, the term of the original contract.

Do you know at what time Mr. Sullivan transferred his interest to Mr. Benn?

If dates are meant, I really do not.

How soon after the date of the contract?

I should suppose, some time in the month of June 1781.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

Jovis, 15^o die Martii 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

MR. ISAAC BAUGH called in, and examined.

Was you secretary to the Supreme Council in Bengal, in the revenue department, in the year 1781?

I was.

Was you present at the Board at the time at which it was agreed to grant the Opium contract to Mr. Stephen Sullivan?

I was.

Did you suggest to the Governor General the propriety of advertising for proposals for that contract?

I did not.

Did Mr. Hastings make any declarations, intimating his reasons for granting that contract to Mr. Sullivan?

I do not recollect any particular reasons.

Did

Did you make any objection to the draft of the contract, on the ground of its referring to written proposals, when none such had been made?

I have some idea that I did, but I am not particular in my recollection.

Do you recollect what conversation passed on that occasion between you and Mr. Hastings?

I do not; but I believe that it was agreed at the Board, that in the preamble, the words "whereas written proposals have been delivered in," should be omitted in the draft.

Are you sure that you have given no other account of this conversation since you have been in England, materially differing from what you have now given?

I do not believe that I have.—If I have, I should be glad to be reminded of the circumstances.

Have you never said, that Mr. Hastings declared at that time, that he gave that contract to Mr. Stephen Sullivan in consideration of his gratitude to Mr. Laurence Sullivan, his father, or words to that effect?

I do not recollect that I have ever said so.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

Martis,

Martis, 20^o die Martii 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

WILLIAM YOUNG, Esq. called in, and examined.

How long was you in any office of the collections of Bahar?

Upwards of six years.

At what time were the collections of Bahar placed under the management of a provincial council?

I believe in the latter end of 1769, or the beginning of 1770, to the best of my recollection.

Was it the plan of that Council, to collect and manage the whole revenue of the Zilla or Province?

It was.

Was there at any time a separation of particular districts from the Zilla?

There was a separation made at different times.

When, and to whom, were such districts committed as separate collectorships?

I can only speak positively as to the separations that were made whilst I was a member of the Provincial Council.— Previous to my being a member, some part of the district of Mongheer was separated, as also the district of Ramgur; —the former, I believe, to add to the collectorship of Mr. Barton, and the latter, I believe, as a collectorship to Captain Camac, who had conquered the country. And subsequent to my becoming a member of that Council, a small part of the southern district of Bahar was given to Captain Browne, who had charge of the Jungle derrèe districts; and in the beginning of the year 1779, the districts of Sircar Sarun, and Champaran, were separated from us, and given as a collectorship to Mr. Green.

For what public use or purpose?

I really do not know; I should suppose the reasons must appear on the consultations of the Governor General and Council, whose act it was.

Does any valid public reason occur to you?

I do not know of any.

After

After these defalcations, did the Provincial Council at Patna remain in the management of the remainder?

It did.

What was the original established number of that Council?

I believe it was three; but when the plan of Provincial Councils became general, the number was increased to five.

Was that number increased or diminished after the defalcations?

We had occasionally a supernumerary member appointed—Mr. David Anderson and Mr. Rame were supernumerary members at different times.

For what public use or purpose was the number continued?

For the conducting the collections, and the government of the country.

Was the expence of the whole establishment at Patna reduced, in consequence of the separation of the districts?

It was not.

While your duties and labour were diminished by the above separation, do you mean to say that your expence and numbers, as a Council, were increased or continued?

Our expence and numbers were occasionally increased, by the appointment of a supernumerary member.

Was you, as a Provincial Council, charged with neglect of, or being unequal to, your duties, as a reason for the separations?

No such reason was ever alledged—nor any reason.

Was you, or any of you, dismissed for neglect or inability?

Never, while I was a member.

At what time were the Provincial Councils abolished?

Some time in February 1781.

For what public assigned reasons?

When we were abolished, it was in consequence of a letter from the Governor General and Council, which assigned public reasons for the measure.—I have a copy of that letter by me now, which I can produce, if necessary.

Question repeated.—

I understood that the assigned reasons were, that it would increase the revenue, and diminish the expences.

For what real object, and with what effect?

I presume a matter of opinion is expected from me on this occasion?

You will give that opinion?

My real opinion is, that the Provincial Councils were abolished, for the sole purpose of adding to the power and influence of the Governor General at the time; and I believe it had that effect.

Why were the Chiefs continued?

For the purpose of receiving the collections from the Farmers, to whom the country had been given, and to pay the usual disbursements at that place.—They were also supposed to be a check on any impropriety of conduct of the Farmers.

Of what rank or quality, in the Company's service, were those servants to whom the whole management of the revenues were committed, under the name of Revenue Committee, in 1781?

Mr. David Anderson, who was appointed President, was of the list of Civil Servants, who came out in 1767.—Mr. Shore, the second member, was of the list of 1769.—Mr. Chartres the same.—Mr. Croftes was of a later date, I do not recollect the year.

What experience or practice did these Gentlemen severally possess in the revenue department?

Mr. David Anderson had been employed in the revenue department for several years—had been originally an assistant under Mr. Middleton at Moorshedabad—then a member of that Council—some little time a supernumerary member of the Patna Council; from which he was made President of the Calcutta Zilla Committee.—Mr. Shore had been some time in the revenue line—likewise Mr. Chartres.—Mr. Croftes, I believe, had never been in the revenue line before.

What other occupations or offices had they, or any of them, at that time?

Mr. David Anderson was appointed Ambassador to Madajee Scindia; during which time he also held his office at the Committee of Revenue. Mr. Croftes was Accountant General to the Revenue Department, and Treasurer, to the best of my recollection, at the same time.

Had not Mr. Croftes a contract at the same time?

I believe he had a Bullock contract.

To whom was the management of the collections of Bahar committed, on the dissolution of the Council, and for what reasons?

Previous to the abolition of the Patna Council, the province of Bahar was given in farm to Rajah Cullian Sing, and Rajah Kellaram; but the engagement stood in the name of Cullian Sing; the alledged reasons were, because they offered an increase of revenue beyond the settlement which

which the Patna Council had made.—We put them in possession some time in January 1781.

You are desired to inform the Committee who these persons were? Whether natives of Bahar? Whether Mussulmen or Hindoos? And in what circumstances they stood?

They were both natives of Delhi—Cullian Sing accompanied his father Shittabroy to Patna, where he resided; and Rajah Kellaram some years afterwards, I believe, being known to Shittabroy in his youth, and hearing that Rajah Shittabroy was preferred by the English to great dignity and honour, came to seek his fortunes under him, and was occasionally employed by him.—Rajah Cullian Sing had been appointed Dewan to the Patna Council, and Rajah Kellaram was at the same time appointed his Naib or Deputy. They were both, I believe, originally Hindoos, as their names denote; but latterly were looked upon, by people of their own sect, as excommunicated persons, having both what is called in India, lost their cast.—It was said at Patna, that Cullian Sing was actually a Mussulman, tho' he kept it private. I believe it will admit of no doubt, that he had been guilty of what the Hindoos consider as the greatest of all sin, of the crime of slaying and eating the cow; and both publicly lived and cohabited with Mahomedan women, by whom they had children, to whom they gave Mahomedan names. And as to their circumstances, it was notorious that they were lacks of rupees in debt; in short, their poverty was so great, that their menial servants had not been paid for years.

Are persons who have so lost their cast, reputed among their countrymen to be persons observant of their honour and character?

It is looked upon as the greatest degradation of honour and character possible.—A Hindoo generally prefers death to the loss of cast.

Was the whole province given to them—or were any separate collectorships left?

Mr. Green remained in possession of his collectorship—they farmed that part of Bahar only, which was latterly under the superintendence of the Patna Council.

On what terms, and for what period, was the farm given them?

They engaged to pay annually rupees 34,08,000 and odd, without deduction; and on their being punctual in their payments, their lease was to be perpetual.

When the Provincial Council was abolished, why was a single collectorship left?

I cannot take upon myself to say why.

Had you, the Provincial Council, then made a settlement for the succeeding year?

We had.

What settlement?

Our settlement was rupees 32,17,000 and odd—to the best of my recollection; besides which there is a collection, which used to be received in Bahar, of $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. called *Resum Casanna*, which would have amounted to between 40 and 50,000 rupees upon the 32 lack; also a profit of *Batta*, or exchange, which would have been, as near as I can guess, about 50,000 rupees more—there was also a considerable sum of money advanced for agriculture from the Treasury, which would have been paid in the course of the year, but does not appear in our settlement; so that I believe, that if all these sums are added together, it will be found that our settlement was equal, or nearly equal, to that entered into with these men, whose farm did not include these articles, I mean that they were not exclusively bound to make them good—the whole sum they were bound to pay being only rupees 34,08,000; and I believe they never paid, nor were called upon to pay, any one of those three articles.

Had you made any collections for that year?

We had.

How much, and in what proportion, to the whole *Jumma*?

We had collected between nine and ten lack of rupees upon our settlement in four months; and the balance upon their instalments, when we delivered over the country to them, was about rupees 17,000, which was unusually small.

Would you have realized your own settlement?

It is impossible to say positively, but I think we should. I believe we assured the Governor General and Council so.

What was the balance of the Bahar year, ending September 1780?

I cannot speak positively, unless I refer to papers. It was very trifling, excepting only what was due from *Rajah Kellaram*; there was about about 75,000 rupees due from him.

How did the new farmers of Bahar execute their engagements?

Very badly.

In what sense?

That they did not pay up the revenue they stipulated to pay.

Was the power committed to them, in virtue of their having the management of the collections, beneficial to the people and country at large?

It was highly ruinous, and most cruelly oppressive.

Have

Have you any proofs of that?

I have—I speak from actual knowledge, by being upon the spot—I was witness to the complaints and clamours of the people; many of whom, when I was out of office, applied to me to relieve their grievances, on an idea that I still had the power to do it. But these men, upon obtaining possession of the revenue of the country, acted in all things as if they had been appointed arbitrary despotic Sovereigns of it—not merely confining themselves to the business of the collections, but assuming the exercise of the administration of justice also.—I was asked for proofs: I have now a representation from the agent of the Phousdar, or criminal Magistrate at Bahar, against Rajah Kelleram, complaining of these things to the Patna Council, a few days before the dissolution. I have a copy of it in Persian, and an English translation of it.

[Copy and translation produced, and brought up to the Table.]

And the said Translation was read, and is as follows:

‘ Patna Consultations, 8th Feb. 1781.

‘ Arzee of the Vakeel of the Sudder Phousdar,
‘ against Rajah Kelleram.

‘ From the time of Sied Hussen Khan, to my
‘ master’s arrival here in Patna, no robbery has been
‘ committed, except in one place, which was lately;
‘ and, thank God, both the thief and goods were
‘ taken, and brought to the Phousdarry; the goods
‘ were restored to the owner, and his receipt for them
‘ is deposited in the Dufta. Also, during the time of
‘ my master’s residing here, whatever he represented
‘ to the Council, they always took notice of it, by
‘ which means his business went on very well, till,
‘ on the 1st of Suffer, or 27th January, when Rajah
‘ Kelleram sent for me, and told me he had spoke to
‘ the Phousdar about the person confined for the murder
‘ committed in Pergunnah Sundeh; but that, as
‘ he had not released him, he would try what he
‘ could do to hurt him, and said, that he would not
‘ suffer his Amleh to do any thing in his Purgunnahs.
‘ He said he did not fear the Nabob himself, for that
‘ he had settled every thing very securely before he
‘ came up; and told his servant, Esouf Beg, in my
‘ presence, not to pay any regard to the Amleh of my
‘ master, in any matter (except murder) but to beat
‘ and

‘ and drive them away ; and then sent for his Moon-
 ‘ shy, and told him to write to the Aumils of every
 ‘ place belonging to him, not to suffer any of the
 ‘ Phousdar’s Peons to seize any person, except for
 ‘ murder, but to beat and ill treat them, for that he
 ‘ himself would punish all crimes in his districts,
 ‘ (murder excepted ;) and asked who the Phousdar
 ‘ was to interfere in any cases, except criminal ones.

‘ From the time this report has been spread about,
 ‘ a great many robberies have been committed, both
 ‘ in the city and out, in the Mofussil, and the thieves
 ‘ are not to be found ; nor is any regard paid to my
 ‘ master’s orders, or those of his Amleh ; and when-
 ‘ ever any one is taken, either for robbery or mur-
 ‘ der, and carried to the Cutcherries, in the Mofussil,
 ‘ he is taken away again ; so that my master’s Naibs
 ‘ out in the Mofussil, not being permitted to execute
 ‘ the duties of their offices, have nothing to do, for
 ‘ no one will obey their orders.

‘ In the Sunnud granted to my master, by the Go-
 ‘ vernor General and Council, it is particularly men-
 ‘ tioned, that he or his Naibs are to represent any
 ‘ Zemindar, or other person, who refuses to obey his
 ‘ or their orders to the gentleman residing in that
 ‘ place, that he may punish the person so disobeying,
 ‘ and the same orders were sent to the Council ;
 ‘ therefore whatever you judge necessary to be done
 ‘ in this case, I request you will be pleased to do it.’

How were accounts settled between them ?

We adjusted our accounts with the old farmers on the part of government, and left these men and Mr. Maxwell, who remained chief, to settle the Mofussil accounts.

How did they exact their Mofussil settlement from the people, and with what general effects ?

They made the settlement in the country with the Zemindars, Talookdars, and Ryots, in an arbitrary manner, by compelling many of them to give a large increase upon the engagements they had previously entered into with the Patna Council. Restraint and confinement were used to effect it, even with the first Zemindars of the country, and it was exacted with the utmost rigour.

Had not Mr. Maxwell authority to prevent such acts ; and if so, why did he not exert it to that end ?

The farmers themselves did not seem to think that Mr. Maxwell did possess such authority ; and certain it is, that he did not exercise it.—When I speak of the farmers, I mean to refer to Rajah Kellaram and Rajah Cullian Sing.

Did

Did they realize their settlement with government ?

They did not.

What was the balance or deficiency of the first year ?

The balance on the immediate conclusion of the year I had an account of, and it was something more than seven lack of Rupees ; but when the accounts came to be finally settled, which was in the course of the second year, they had applied part of the revenue of the second to reduce the balance of the first year ; and I think that it then amounted to about four lack of Rupees.

If so, was that a real reduction of the balance of seven lacks ?

Certainly a real reduction of the balance of the first year, though an addition to the deficiency of the second, if there was any.

Were the Council at large, or any number of it, consulted about the character, competency, or capacity of these persons for such a trust ?

The Council was never consulted.—None of us were called upon to give our opinions upon it ; but I informed Mr. Hastings in Calcutta, when I understood that it was intended to give the country to these men, that it never would be realized—and in the month of January or February I recorded this opinion upon the proceedings of our Council.

Was it usual, before that period, for the Governor General and Council to consult the Bahar Council previous to granting leases of farms, &c.

They consulted us upon all points relating to the revenue of our division.

Was not the Council of Bahar held responsible for their settlement ?

The Governor General and Council often wrote to us, that they should consider us as responsible for the revenue.

What were the particular qualifications of these new managers for such a trust ?

They were the most unfit men that such a trust could have been given to.

Did they collect from the country the amount of their engagement to government, or more ?

They made a settlement with the country of thirty six lacks and upwards—They could not collect the whole of it ; but I am certain, from the information I obtained at Patna, that they must have realized more than the amount of their engagements to government.

How much more ?

I cannot speak positively to the sum—they made various other collections and exactions, exclusive of the settlement

tlement they had made in the country, from the proprietors of independent Clans which paid no rent to government.

By what means did they exact what they collected?

By restraint and confinement, and I believe, in some instances, by corporal punishment.

Did they, or did they not, violate the rights of the possessors of alienated lands, or of Zemindars, or of Ryots?

By the complaints preferred to me by those persons, it would appear they did.

Did they assume the administration of justice in the Mofuffil or country?

I have already stated that they did.

Could this state of the country, and of the administration, be unknown to Mr. Hastings?

It might originally, but Mr. Hastings had an opportunity, in January 1782, when he was at Patna, of seeing, and being informed of it, which I believe he was.

What measures did government take to oblige them to pay their balance?

Raja Kellaram was confined for the balance that appeared against him, and Rajah Cullian Sing's Jagheer was attached by government to make good his proportion of the balance.

Was it paid?

When I came away from Patna, the latter end of 1785, part of it was paid, and Raja Kellaram was out of confinement.

Do you suppose that these persons could have expected any indulgence from government, in not exacting the balance due, when it was notorious, or might have been easily ascertained, that they had really collected more than the amount of their settlement from the country, and on what ground?

After having obtained the farm of the country, they might have expected any thing—the same patronage that had given them the country, they might think would have liberated them from their balance and confinement.

What then was the cause or foundation of that supposed patronage?

The support and friendship of the Governor General, and Gungergovind Sing, through whom the farm had been obtained.

By what means obtained?

We had various reports on the subject.

What were those reports?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And

And being again called in ;

He was asked,

What was the general prevailing opinion at Patna, among the natives, on this subject ?

The opinion of the natives, whether well or ill-founded, was, that they purchased the office.

Was that your opinion, and that of the Europeans in general at Patna ?

I beg to decline answering that question.

Do you answer positively for the real existence of such a general opinion among the natives ?

The opinion was certainly very general.

Did any facts, giving rise to such report and opinion, come out to the public ?

The report originated, I believe, with the parties themselves, the farmers ; but as to facts, that is, the actual receipt or payment of the money, I am not personally acquainted with any.

Is it your opinion, that although Rajah Kellaram was confined, and kept so long a time for his balance to government, there might nevertheless have been, in the first instance, a fraudulent understanding between him and people in power at Calcutta ?

I think it very possible.

On what principles ?

On this principle—That having been powerfully patronized at Calcutta, it is possible that Rajah Kellaram might have been given to understand, that it was a necessary measure to save appearances, and that he might soon be released, upon easier terms than paying his balance.

Do you believe that to have been the case ?

I think it very probable.

Do you know, or did you ever hear, from what you deem credible authority, that any sum, or engagement for a sum of money, was given by these persons to Mr. Hastings ?

I beg the indulgence of the committee, to be excused answering that question.

Why do you ask for that indulgence ?

I wish that the committee would be pleased to indulge me in that respect, without giving my reasons.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ;

He was asked,

Do you know that any sum, or engagement for a sum of money, was given by those persons to Mr. Hastings ?

I cannot take upon myself to say absolutely that I know it.

L

Have

Have you heard it, and from what authority ?

I certainly heard so.

From what authority ?

I deemed the authority good.

What authority ?

Am I obliged to answer that question ?

You are obliged to answer it.

I think that I heard it from the parties themselves ; and I know that Mujadis Roy, the Vakeel or agent of Rajah Cullian Sing, told me so some time in the months of June or July 1781, in Calcutta.

Did you receive the same information from any body else ?

I did not receive the information from any body else that I recollect now, that money was paid—I heard only that money was to be paid.

Was it in money, or by the engagement, called a Teep, and in whose name ?

I heard it was by a written engagement, or Teep, and in the name of Rajah Cullian Sing.

What was the sum ?

I heard four lacks of Rupees.

Did you ever hear what disposition was made of that Teep, or if it was ever paid, and to whom ?

The money I understood was paid to Guntergovind Sing, on Mr. Hastings's account.

To whose hands was the Teep given, by the person that gave it ?

It is impossible for me to say to whose hands, unless I had seen it delivered.

What did you hear from the Vakeel was done with it ?

I do not recollect that particularly.—I heard also from Mr. Wheler the sum of four lacks was to be paid.—Mr. Wheler mentioned it to me one morning in the course of conversation, when I was remonstrating with him on the hardship and injustice of sacrificing a public body, such as our Council was, to two such men.

To whom did Mr. Wheler say it was to be paid ?

He did not express to me to whom.

Did you understand for what purpose it was to be paid ?

I understood it was for giving those men the farm of the country.

Do you mean that the four lacks was to be given to the East India Company, or to any of their servants ?

I certainly did not understand it at the time as a donation to the East India Company, I understood it certainly to their servants—it is merely matter of opinion.

To

To which of their servants?

I understood to Mr. Hastings; that was the opinion I formed at the time in my own mind.

Did you not, at that time, consider that the four lacks to be paid in by this teep might be the remaining part of the balance due from them on account of their settlement?

Certainly not——The circumstance I have mentioned happened some time in December 1780, or January 1781, previous to their having taken charge of the country, or executed their public engagements.

When you state the sum given to Mr. Hastings as given with the privity of Mr. Wheler, do you mean to say that the money was accepted with the consent and concurrence of Mr. Wheler?

I do not understand that I have yet said that any money was actually given.

Do you mean to say you understood from Mr. Wheler, that the teep was to be accepted with Mr. Wheler's consent and concurrence?

Mr. Wheler never mentioned a teep to me.

When you said, that you heard from Mr. Wheler that the sum of four lacks were to be paid, did you understand from Mr. Wheler that those four lacks were to be paid with his consent?

I certainly did not understand so at the time; I looked upon it to be private information of the transaction, which Mr. Wheler might have obtained as I had done.

Do you understand, now, that Mr. Wheler received any part of that money?

I never had an idea that he did. I know Mr. Wheler's private sentiments to be against abolishing the provincial councils, and giving the farm of Patna to these men.

In which of the names was the settlement made?

Rajah Cullian Sing.

Which of them was imprisoned for the balance?

Rajah Kelloram.

What was the reason for confining this man; and why were not both confined?

Rajah Cullian Sing had visible property——he had a Jaghire of 80,000 Rupees a year, but he was nevertheless much in debt; Rajah Kelloram had no visible property, I believe, but a house, which was seized and sold. I was at the auction of that and other effects.

As Kelloram was imprisoned, what do you believe or know to be the reason that he did not defend himself, by accusing, or threatening to accuse Mr. Hastings?

I beg to decline answering that question.

Why?

I have my reasons for it, which I wish not to give.

As Kelleraam was imprisoned, what do you know to be the reason that he did not defend himself, by accusing, or threatening to accuse Mr. Hastings?

I beg the indulgence of the committee, to decline answering that question—I have very great objections to answering it.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

He was directed to state those objections; and to inform the committee, whether he conceived his answer to that question would tend in any manner to criminate himself?

The question cannot criminate me in any manner.

Then you must answer it.

While Kelleraam was in confinement, his agents frequently came to me, and thought that I might be instrumental to his enlargement; and, in the course of the conversation that passed, they gave as a reason to me why they durst not do such a thing as criminate those that gave him the farm, that it was dangerous to Rajah Kelleraam, it might be fatal to him;—they said, Has not Rajah Nuncimar been hanged? this may be the fate of Rajah Kelleraam; or words to that effect, to the best of my recollection. The persons that came to me, I recollect one of them was Mooteran, the Vakeel of Rajah Kelleraam; another man used to come to me, whose name I do not recollect: Rajah Kelleraam's son, Ball Govin, used to come to me—it was with one of these men that this conversation happened.

Then was it a thing admitted, or taken for granted, in the conversations you allude to, that Kelleraam had such a weapon of defence against Mr. Hastings, but was afraid to make use of it?

I certainly understood it so.

Was the change in the revenue system made in 1781, attended with any and what diminution in the general charges of collections, and all establishments, or any of the revenue?

As the allowances to the members of the Council were continued, till they were otherwise provided for, I do not think there could have been any immediate diminution of expence.

Was the change distressful to the members of the Provincial Councils, their assistants, and servants, in any, and what degree?

It was certainly highly distressful to our feelings as men, to be turned out of office, and ordered down to the Presidency—we had considered our situations as fixed. The measure of Provincial Councils had been adopted by the former government; it had been received by the Supreme Council,

Council, approved by the Court of Directors, and, by having been made known to the legislature, had virtually received legal sanction;—the dismissal was what we little expected from the hand of one man, who was, virtually, the government of Bengal, after one appointments had received the sanction of such high authority.

The question is, What was the distress it occasioned to the members of the Council, their assistants, and servants?

I will state that :—Some of us had houses and land, our assistants had some of them also houses.—Having considered ourselves in a fixed situation, we had our occupations, our pursuits, and amusements—We had it in our power to afford assistance to some needy friends, who depended upon us—Our own misfortunes were much aggravated by finding our friends involved in the same calamity as ourselves.—Allow me to say, that we had endeavoured to govern the people who were placed under our charge with moderation and humanity—we felt not a little for their situation also, who were so sensible of the consequences to themselves, of being delivered up to the arbitrary will of such men, whose character they were perfectly acquainted with, that the terror they conceived upon the occasion is only to be compared to an apprehended invasion of a ravaging army of Marattas; and as to our own feelings, they can only be compared to an expulsion from house and home—for it was in reality to some of us an actual banishment, and to myself equal to dismissal from the Company's service—for, being of a rank in the service superior to the president of the new committee, and my mind employed in the business of the revenue, I could not hold any office in the revenue in future without submitting to the painful degradation of obeying the orders of my juniors; a thing held as disgraceful in the service of the East India Company, as it would be thought in his Majesty's service for the Colonel of a regiment to be put under the command of one of his Subalterns.

Do you know Gungergovind Sing?

I do.

What was his office and power during Mr. Hastings's administration?

During the latter part of his administration Gungergovind Sing was considered by the natives as the second personage in the government, though his office was that of Duan to the committee of revenue.

What was the general opinion of the natives of the use he made of his power?

I always heard him spoken very ill of by the natives; as
a man

a man universally hated by them for his peculations and oppressions, to which he made his powers subservient.

What was the opinion of Europeans?

The same.

Do you know, or have you heard from authority that you deem good, any facts in support of these opinions?

I do not know any thing myself particularly, but that a man they called Ram Chunder Sain, who was as likely to know his transactions as any man in Bengal, assured me, in 1781, that even then Gungergovind Sing had accumulated above a Crore of Rupees, and he declared to me he had an account of the particulars.

Do you give credit to what that man told you?

I believed it.

From your knowledge of Gungergovind Sing's situation and power, do you think it likely that he had or might have nearly accumulated such a sum?

I think it probable.

Was the giving Bahar in farm to Cullian Sing and Kellaram, in your opinion productive only of a temporary or of a lasting prejudice to the revenue?

Of a lasting prejudice, because they desolated the country, ruined agriculture, distressed the people, and caused many of them to fly.

What do you estimate the loss at to the Company on the revenues of Bahar, to the time of your leaving Bengal?

I imagine it could not be less than twenty-five Lack of Rupees.

Could you, if called upon, make out that by accounts?

I could render it probable; I think evident.

What office did Rajah Kellaram hold under the Patna Council?

He had been Naib Duan, and we appointed him to the charge of the collections of Sircar Rotas in 1779 and 1780.

Did he collect the amount of his settlement for Rotas?

I believe he collected more than the settlement he sent to Patna.

Did he pay it up to government?

He did not.

What was the balance?

Of about 75,000 Rupees, to the best of my recollection.

What means were taken to make him pay that balance?

We put him under Mohussles, or in the custody of an officer.

When,

When, and by whom, was he released from that restraint?

By the Patna Council some time in September 1780; but I cannot be particular as to dates.

For what reason was he released, if he had not paid his balance?

I was at that time acting chief at Patna, and released him by a vote of my Council, in which I was left in a minority. He had received a Perwanna from Mr. Hastings to come to Calcutta.—I received also a letter from Mr. Hastings directing me to permit him to come down.

Did you report the facts to the Governor General and Council, or to Mr. Hastings particularly.

I wrote an answer to Mr. Hastings, stating his situation, to which I wished to have waited his reply, but my council over ruled me.

Was the Balance due by Kellaram ever paid?

Never, that I heard of.

At what time did he go from Patna to Calcutta?

I cannot be precise as to dates, but he went away the day after his enlargement, which was some time in the rainy season in 1780.

Did you ever hear, and from whom, what was the amount of his embezzlement during his collectorship of Rotas?

He boasted publicly it was 60,000 Rupees.

Did you record your opinion of the settlement made with these persons?

I did.

Was it to the same effect with the evidence you have now given?

Precisely.

Have you known during the time of your continuance in the Company's service any farms, except this, let to any farmer of revenue for a perpetuity, on condition of the payment of their rents, agreed on?

I know some instances.

Were they to Zemindars or Farmers?

Both.

Can you name them?

The district of Sonnour, and part of Shawabad, in Bahar, had been given to one Noor ul Huffin Cawn, upon a lease, which after a certain period was to be perpetual.

At what time, and for what cause, was this settlement made?

The settlement took place with him before I came to the Patna Council; and it failed whilst I was a member.

Was

Was it renewed ?

It was not.

Was the farm continued to Kellaram and Cullian Sing, after the failure of their engagements ?

A very little time afterwards it was found they could not go on another year ; so they were dismissed in the middle of the second year.

As you have stated, that the course of justice was disturbed and usurped by these two farmers, whether Sir Elijah Impey did not visit Patna during the continuance of this farm ?

He did.

How long did he stay at Patna ?

He was there some time ; then went down to Boglepoor, and came back again to Patna ; and hearing that all was peace and quietness at Benares, he hurried up there with all possible expedition.

Did he take any steps towards the furtherance of the administration of justice, and correcting grievances, whilst he staid at Patna ?

Though the professed object of his journey was to hear appeals, yet he took no steps whatever, that I ever heard of, to perform that duty.

And then the Witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

Veneris,

Veneris, 23^o die Martii 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

WILLIAM HARWOOD, Esquire, called in, and examined.

How long was you Chief of the Provincial Council of Dinagepore?

From the beginning of the year 1775 to the beginning of the year 1780.

At what time were any particular districts separated from your division, in order to form separate collectorships?

About the month of August 1777, the province of Rungpoore; and early in the beginning of the next year the Purgunnas of Silberris were separated from our division.

For what public use or purpose were these separations made?

For none that I know of.

After these separations, how much of the original division of Dinagepore was left under the management of the Provincial Council?

If we except the Zemindary of Dinagepore, which was also in effect separated from our division, we retained about a quarter of our original division.

Was the established number of the Council still kept compleat, diminished, or increased?

They were continued compleat.

Was the expence of the whole establishment reduced, in consequence of the separation of the districts?

No.

Was you, as a Provincial Council, charged with neglect of, or being unequal to, your duties, as a reason for the separations?

I do not remember that we were ever charged with neglect or inability.

M

Do

Do you collect the amount of the settlement of the districts originally, or at any time in your charge compleat, or was there any balance?

In some years we did collect the whole compleat; in others, very inconsiderable balances were left.

Do you know whether the settlement of the districts separated from your Council were fully collected, or if any balances were left?

Very considerable balances were left.

What was the greatest amount of your own balance at any time?

I do not remember the exact sum, but it was very trifling.

Are you of opinion, that the inability of the Provincial Councils, from the decline of the revenues, was a sufficient reason for dissolving them?

I do not apprehend there was any inability on the part of the Provincial Councils, therefore I cannot suppose it could be urged as a reason for their abolition.

Were there any factions in your Council?

I may say none at all, for during the five years that I was Chief of that Council I recollect only one dissent.

Where is the Zemindary of Baharbund?

It joins the province of Rungpore, and is to the Eastward of it.

Do you know upon what terms the Zemindary of that Purgunnah was granted to Mr. Hastings's Banyan, in the name of his son?

No, I do not.

Do you recollect the opinion of a gentleman, member of the select committee, in the year 1776, with respect to the present Provincial Councils, in these words: "I am of opinion that the institution was fundamentally wrong."

I have not the least recollection of it.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

EWAN LAW, Esquire, called in and examined.

Was you in Council at Patna when a separate Collectorship was formed for Mr. James Barton, partly out of your district?

I really do not recollect—I was a member of the Patna Council at that time; but it will appear from the Company's records.

Was you Chief at Patna when a separate Collectorship was formed out of your district for Mr. Charles Græme—
and

and when the district of Tirhut was made over to the Zemindar?

I was.

For what public use or purpose were these separations made?

I really cannot tell.

Are you of opinion, that they were intended for public use, or otherwise?

I am to suppose they were so intended: Whether they answered that purpose or not, I did not stay long enough to judge of by its effects.

Did you at the time consider these measures as matters of personal favour, and personal favour only?

I certainly considered the appointment of Mr. Graeme to the Collectorship of Sircar Saran as a matter of private favour.

What did you at the time think of Tirhut?

I considered it as a particular indulgence to the Zemindar.

Did you ever record your opinion, that it was owing to the intrigues of that Zemindar that the failure of the preceding renter ought to be attributed?

I must refer, for an answer to this question, to the Patna consultations at the time.

Then an Extract of a Letter from the Witness to Mr. Francis, dated 15th February 1772, being read to the Witness, as follows:

‘ I cannot but observe, that at the same time that we are so severely reprehended for the decrease of Jumma, Tirhut with its dependencies is in a manner taken out of our hands, and the settlement made, with very large and particular allowances, to the Zemindar; to whose intrigues I have recorded my opinion that the failure of the late renter may be in a good measure attributed.’

The question was repeated?

I have no doubt, from what has been just now read to me, that such was my opinion, and that it stands so recorded; but having lost, in the General Barker Indianman, all my books and papers, I cannot, at the distance of eight or nine years, particularly recollect every transaction that happened during my Chiefship, or the opinion that I then gave.

Was it not your opinion at the time, that Mr. Charles Graeme, having been brought up in the commercial line, could have no local knowledge of the districts he was ap-

pointed to, or experience in the revenue branch in general?

It was.

After these defalcations of particular districts, did the Provincial Council of Patna continue in the management of the remainder?

To the best of my recollection, they did.

What was the original established number of that Council, from 1773?

I believe it originally consisted of three members; afterwards it was increased to four, and to five.

Was that number of five increased or diminished after the separation of the districts?

I rather think there was an additional member.

For what public use or purpose was there an additional member appointed?

I really cannot tell.

Was the expence of the whole establishment of the Provincial Council at Patna reduced, in consequence of the separation of the districts?

I do not remember any.

While your duties and labours were diminished by the above separations, do you mean to say that your expence and number, as a Council, were increased, or diminished?

The addition of a member to the Council must have been attended with an increase of the expence. I remember no other increase.

Was you, as a Provincial Council, charged with neglect of, or being unequal to, your duties, as a reason for the separations?

We were not.

Was you, or any of you, dismissed for neglect or inability?

No.

Is it your opinion, that the inability of the Provincial Councils, from the decline of the revenues, was a sufficient reason for abolishing those Councils?

I cannot speak to the abolition of the Provincial Councils, because it is a measure that took place after my departure from the country.

Your opinion is desired on the general ability of those Councils to perform their duties?

I suppose, in general, they were able to perform their duty.

Are you of opinion that the management of the revenues may be better conducted by Provincial Councils, or by Collectors?

Supposing

Supposing the Collector to have a knowledge of the language, and all other necessary qualifications, I suppose the business would be performed with more ease and dispatch by a Collector.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

ALEXANDER HIGGINSON, Esquire, called in, and examined.

How long was you in Council at Burdwan?

Between four and five years.

Did the Supreme Board, while it consisted of Mr. Hastings, General Clavering, Colonel Monson, Mr. Barwell, and Mr. Francis, form a settlement directly with the Rajah, as Zemindar, for two years, commencing in April 1776?

I was Chief of the Council at that time, and the settlement was then formed.

Was that settlement collected?

To the best of my recollection, the first year was completely realized. There might have been some balance the second year; but as I am entirely unprovided with materials, having by accident lost my papers, I cannot speak as to the particular sum; but whatever sum it was, it either was, or might have been, easily realized from the Zemindar.

Was it collected without oppression to the country?

My opinion in general is, that it was, as far as an arbitrary country will admit.

Was it a favourable settlement for government?

I believe it was formed upon a medium of three or five years receipts, and the country, as well as the Zemindar, was fully able to pay it.

At what time was the separate Collectorship of Midnapore formed out of the Burdwan Zilla for Mr. Pearce?

I do not recollect the particular time; but it was about six months before I left the Chieffship.

For what public use or purpose was that separation made?

I do not know.

Does it occur to you, that any public purpose of utility was to be answered by it.

The only purpose which occurs to me was, that as Mr. Pearce and Mr. Charters made a settlement some months before, Mr. Pearce was ordered by the Governor General and Council to reside on the spot, to manage the collection.

Was

Was the appointment indispensably necessary to that purpose, or might the business have been done by the Council?

My opinion is, that it might have been equally well done by the Council.

Was the expence of the general establishment of the Council at Burdwan diminished or increased in consequence of that separation?

To the best of my knowledge it continued the same, because the vacant seat in Burdwan was not filled during the time I staid there; but it afterwards was.

Are you of opinion, that the inability of the Provincial Councils, from the decline of the revenues, was a sufficient reason for dissolving them?

No.

Who is Gunga Govin Sing?

I knew him in several capacities; first, as Naib Canonigo at Moorsshedabad; afterwards he was Duan of the Calcutta committee; afterwards he was Naib of the Kalfah to the Roy Royan; and then he was at the head of the Aumeen Duffer, established under Messrs. Anderson and Bogle; after that he was Duan of the Calcutta General Committee.

What was his office and power during Mr. Hastings's administration, from the end of 1780?

I was not in the revenue branch at that time; I was preparing to leave India then.

What was the general opinion of the natives of the use he made of his power?

A very bad one.

In what respect?

His influence at the Kalfah gave him opportunities of being very partial, and very frequently oppressive.

What was the opinion of Europeans?

My own opinion, and the opinion of those with whom I conversed, was as I have before related.

What was the general opinion, and your own, of his wealth?

He was generally thought to be very rich; the particular sum I cannot ascertain.

Is not Midnapore a frontier province, and part of it woody and mountainous, inhabited by a wild disorderly race of people?

Great part of it is.

What is the distance from Burdwan to the frontiers of the Midnapore Province?

I suppose above a hundred miles.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

PETER MOORE, Esquire, called in, and examined.

Was you in the revenue department in Bengal?

I was.

In what Councils?

First in the Provincial Council of Calcutta, next in that of Moorshedabad.

Are you acquainted with the situation of the Zemindary of Baharbund?

It lies to the eastward of Dinagepore and Rungpore. I was stationed in that neighbourhood.

To whom did it originally belong?

I believe to the Zemindary of Radshi, belonging to Ranny Bowanny.

For what reason was it taken from the Ranny of Radshi, and given to Cantoo Baboo?

I do not exactly recollect: I believe on some plea of incapacity or insufficiency in her to manage it, or some pretended decline in the revenue, owing to mismanagement.

On what terms was it granted to Cantoo Baboo, or to his son?

I believe it was a grant in perpetuity, at the revenue of Rupees 82 or 83,000 per annum.

What amount did he collect from the country?

I cannot tell. The year I was in that neighbourhood the settlement with his under tenants was something above Rupees 3,53,000. The inhabitants of the country objected to it; they assembled in a body of about five thousand, and were proceeding to Calcutta to make known their grievances to the committee of revenue; they were stopped at Cossimbuzar by Noor Sing Baboo, the brother of Cantoo Baboo, and there the matter was compromised; in what manner I cannot say.

Who is Nundoo du Loll Roy?

He was the farmer of Radshi, under the division of Moorshedabad, when I was a member of that Council. He was a dismissed servant of the Ranny of Radshi.

Did he pay his revenue?

He did not.

What balance did he leave?

The witness desires to refresh his memory from his own memorandums made at Moorshedabad, and at Calcutta.

The first was incurred in 1777-8, Bengal year, ending April 1778, amounting to Rupees 7,57,928. Second balance, Bengal year ending April 1782, being the first year of the establishing the committee of revenue, he then

then had the farm given to him again, and incurred a further balance of Rupees 4,57,583, making Rupees 12,15,511.

Was he when you came away still indebted to government to that amount?

I believe about 2,000 Rupees had been paid in discharge of the last balance of Rupees 4,57,583. I do not know that any thing further has been paid.

Do you know who Kellaram is?

He is renter of the Bahar Province, either in part or the whole.

Do you know any thing of a Teep given, or engagement entered into, by Kellaram and Cullian Sing, or either of them, for a sum of money to be paid by them to Mr. Hastings, or for his use.

No, I do not.

Have you no information whatsoever on that subject?

I have some information on the subject, but I hope the committee will indulge me in not producing it.

Why do you ask that indulgence?

It may bring a discredit upon others, which I should be unwilling to do.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

He was asked,

Does it tend to criminate yourself?

No—The person from whom I had the information is dead.

What is the information you possess on the subject?

When the Provincial Councils were abolished, I was at Moorshedabad; I returned to Calcutta the latter end of October, or the beginning of November, 1781. Mr. Wheler was my particular friend. Immediately on my arrival I went to him; the subject of our conversation turned on the extraordinary revenue system that had taken place. He said he had done all he could to prevent it.—That the plan had been three times shewn to him, and three times had it been altered, on objections made by him—That he ultimately did not concur, but did not oppose, because it was to no purpose—That a sum of money had been offered to him since its institution. That the sum received from Kellaram had been four Lacks of Rupees, one half of which, or the whole, I do not recollect exactly which, had been offered to him, (to use the words of Mr. Wheler,) “as the only money which had been in his disposal since he came to the chair”—No name was mentioned.

Who

Who did you understand to be meant by *his* and *he*?

The person who had come to the chair of Bengal, the Governor General.—Mr. Wheler did not mention this to me in confidence; so far to the contrary, he mentioned it in terms from which he meant to derive merit from his resistance to such a temptation.

Do you mean that the words *his* and *he* mean to refer to a different person, in the end of your answer, to what they did in the beginning?

I have delivered them as the words used by Mr. Wheler.—It was a mode of expression adopted by him to avoid mentioning the name of the Governor General, to which *he* and *his* only can apply.

The first (*him*) of money offered to him, then means that it was offered to Mr. Wheler?

Yes.

Whether Mr. Wheler, previous to the words you have quoted as his (Mr. Wheler's) had named or alluded to Mr. Hastings, so as to make it clear that the words *he* and *his* must allude to Mr. Hastings?

We had before been talking of Mr. Hastings's measures, and of the measures of the Government General.

Did you or did you not understand from Mr. Wheler that Mr. Hastings did receive four Lacks of Rupees for abolishing the Provincial Councils?

No, certainly not—the money was received from Kellaram, who had only one farm under the new institution.

What was the sum received from Kellaram?

The sum I have heard, was four Lacks.

Was the money so given in consideration of Mr. Hastings giving them, (Kellaram and Cullian Sing,) the farm of the province of Bahar in perpetuity?

I cannot speak to it as a fact—I believe it must have been so.

What reply did Mr. Wheler tell you he made to the proposal?

He did not tell me—he gave me sufficiently to understand that he had declined it, but he went on with the conversation between him and the person making the tender, that very sufficiently indicated his refusal. The words were, using the third person's words as before, "Then," says he, "it shall go to the Maratta fund."

Do you know who is Nobkissen?

Lord Clive's Moonshee.

Do you know any thing of his being appointed Sezawal of the district of Burdwan?

He was appointed Sezawal of Burdwan in 1780, the year preceding the appointment of the committee of revenue, and held it two years.

At what rate did he settle with government for the revenue of Burdwan?

The first year he held it at about thirty-eight lacks—the second year the committee levied an increase, I think, of five lacks.

Did he pay it?

The first year he paid wholly—the second year he left a balance of Rupees 1,83,500.

What general use did he make of his power in Burdwan?

His conduct was said to be very irregular, and his exactions very great, and it clearly appears so, from his payments being to so much greater amount the second year than they were the first.

Do you know, or have you any valid reasons to believe, that Mr. Macpherson did at any time declare, that as soon as it might be in his power, he would compel Gunga Govin Sing to refund, or to that effect.

I have received information on that subject, but I desire to be excused answering that question.

Why do you wish to be excused?

The person from whom I received the information is a particular friend of mine, and I believe would not wish to have it mentioned.

Does it tend to criminate that person?

No.

And the question being objected to ;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in ;

He was asked ;

After the dissolution of the Councils in 1781, were there any separate Collectorships continued or created for English gentlemen?

A great many.

What were they, and to whom were they given?

Mr. Touchet—the twenty-four Pergunnas.

Mr. Dallas—Radshi.

Mr. Vanfittart—Nuddea.

The rest are included in the revenue plan delivered in by Mr. Stuart.

Were these separations consistent or inconsistent with the general plan established by Mr. Hastings in 1781?

Directly opposite to his professions.

From what motive are the native renters, at a distance from Calcutta, desirous to pay their rents at Calcutta?

That they may be left uncontrouled in their exactions, oppressions, and extortions.

Were

Were the great Zemindaries of Burdwan, Radshi, Dinagepoor, and Nuddea, left under the management of the respective Zemindars, in conformity to the plan of 1781.

Burdwan was not—Radshi was not—Dinagepoor was given to Rajah Deval Sing, whose exactions were such as to cause an insurrection of the whole country, and the Company's troops were turned out to quell it.—Nuddea was given nominally in charge to the Rajah; but Mr. Macdowal, a servant of the Company, was stationed over him, to keep him punctual in his payments.

Who is Gunga Govin Sing?

He was, when I left Bengal, Duan to the committee of revenue.

What was his office and power during Mr. Hastings's administration, since 1780.

He was formerly Duan to the Provincial Council stationed at Calcutta, of which I was a member; his conduct then was licentious and unwarrantable, oppressive and extortionary: He was stationed under us to be an humble and submissive servant, and to be of use to us in the discharge of our duty; his conduct was every thing the reverse—we endeavoured to correct the mischiefs he was guilty of as much as possible. In one attempt to release fifteen persons illegally confined by him, we were dismissed our offices; a different pretence for our dismissal was held out, but it was only a pretence. Since his appointment as Duan to the present committee of revenue, his line of conduct has only been a continuance of what I have described, but upon a larger scale.

What was the general opinion of the natives of the use he made of his power?

He was looked up to by the natives as the second person in the government, if not the first; he was considered as the only channel for obtaining favour or employment from the Governor. There is hardly a native family of rank or credit within the three provinces, whom he has not some time or other distressed and afflicted; scarce a Zemindary that he has not dismembered and plundered.

Was you in a situation to know this to be true?

I certainly was.

What was the general opinion, and your own, concerning his wealth?

It is almost impossible to form a competent judgment, his means of acquiring it have been so extensive. I had an account shewn to me about July 1785, stating his acquisitions at three hundred and twenty lacks of Rupees.

Do you believe it possible he could have acquired that sum. or any thing like it?

I do really believe he has acquired the greatest part of it; —he certainly had the means so to do.

What were the professed objects and effect of the appointment of the committee of revenue in 1781, with respect to the collection of the revenues, and government of the country?

The professed objects were, retrenchments of expence, and improvement of revenue; the effects were, increase of expence, and decrease of revenue. I wish to exemplify this answer—the increase of revenue proposed to be made, and promised to the public the four first years, amounted to Rupees 85,10,152, the balances uncollected on the 13th of July 1785, which allowed fifteen months to the last year, amounted to no less a sum than Rupees 1,26,23,624, exceeding the proposed increase by Rupees 41,13,472; to which is to be added Rupees 24,83,675, increase of expence during those four years, exceeding the establishment of the Provincial Councils.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

Veneris,

Veneris, 30^o die Martii 1787.

COMMITTEE of the Whole House on the Articles of Charge of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, presented to the House against Warren Hastings, Esquire, late Governor General of Bengal.

WILLIAM MARKHAM, Esquire, called in, and examined.

Was you private Secretary to Mr. Hastings in 1780?

I was.

Do you recollect Mr. Hastings having mentioned to you, in June 1780, that he had received a present of two lacks of Rupees from Cheyt Sing, through his Buxey Suddanund?

I recollect going with Mr. Hastings in his carriage to Sir John Day's; he meant to certify from Sir John Day the terms of a coalition which had been reciprocally entered into between him and Mr. Francis. On the return he told me, that Sir John Day was a cautious man, and did not chuse to decide between them. Some minutes of Council at this time had passed, and objections had been made by Mr. Francis and Mr. Wheler to an expedition proposed by the Governor General into the country of Malva, on account of the expence that the Company would be put to by the difference of the troops being in cantonments or upon actual service out of the provinces. That lately Suddanund, Rajah Cheyt Sing's Buxey, had been with him, and had offered him a present of two lacks of Rupees. That he had originally rejected the offer, but that, thinking to do away these objections of Mr. Francis and Mr. Wheler, by offering a sum equal to the contingent expences, he had accepted it, and that it was paid, or to be paid, into the hands of Mr. Crostes, the sub-treasurer. That he was now under a difficulty, as, in the event of the expedition not being agreed to by the Board, he did not know what to do with this sum of money, as he could not think of taking it himself. Some days ago I saw Mr. Hastings, and wishing to be correct in my evidence before this committee, I requested to see the copy of a letter in my own hand-writing, in his letter book, from Mr. Hastings to Mr. Lawrence Sullivan, at the

the time that I was his private secretary ; I made extracts of the parts which related to the business for which I imagined I was called before this committee as a witness.

The witness then referred to the committee, whether he should produce that paper, being the copy of that extract, and read it as part of his evidence.

And then the witness was asked ;

In what office was Mr. Sullivan at that time ?

I believe he was deputy chairman of the Court of Directors.

Does the letter relate to public business ?

In some parts it does—some private.

Was it addressed to him as deputy chairman of the East India Company, or in his private capacity ?

In his private capacity.

When did you see Mr. Hastings, and take these extracts ?

Since I was ordered to attend this committee as a witness.

Then you know that the copy book of these letters is now in Mr. Hastings's possession ?

It was yesterday ; but it is his copy book of his private letters.

Parts of which you have stated to be on public business—of a public nature ?

The part that I have offered to this committee is relative to the two lacs received from Cheyt Sing.

Do you know of any objection to the production of the whole of this letter, or of the copy book which contains it, to this committee ?

I neither know of Mr. Hastings's objection to the producing it, nor that he would approve of it.

Do you know whether there are other letters in that book making similar communications on public matters ?

When I was secretary to Mr. Hastings, I copied various letters into various books. When I asked to see this letter yesterday, we were a long time finding it, and in discovering in what book it was ; and I do not know what particular letters may be in that book, or to what business they relate. I believe no public letters are in it, because it is a private letter book. Perhaps many people in private letters treat of public matters, but I do not know any public letter in the book.

Was that letter sent to be laid before the Court of Directors ?

It was not ; but Mr. Sullivan, in the extract which I meant to produce, is allowed to make a public use of the subject

subject matter of which I speak, if he pleased.—A public letter was sent to the Court of Directors, which I believe is now before this house, some time in the month of November.—I think this letter, which I have extracted, went in a Danish ship, and was dated 30th August, no English ship sailing at the time.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

He was asked,

Was you well acquainted with Mr. Wheeler, and how long did you know him?

I went to India with him in the year 1777, lived some time in his house, and during my residence in India, though secretary to Mr. Hastings at the time when disputes ran high in Council, was always, I believe, considered by him as a private friend, and one of his family whenever I chose to be at his house.

Did you ever hear Mr. Wheeler express a disapprobation of the abolition of the Provincial Councils?

I recollect he used often to talk with me upon the subject when upon a party with Mr. Hastings, at the country house of Mr. Croftes: I was at that time, by Mr. Hastings's directions, translating some part of a plan of Gunga Govin Sing. He said he considered the whole of the plan as a good one for the collection of the revenue, on account of the difficulty which he said there was in fixing responsibility upon a body of men like a Council; but he said he thought it too bold a measure, considering M. Hastings as an individual, as it might be taken hold of in this country to his prejudice.

Did you ever hear Mr. Wheeler say that he had been offered by Mr. Hastings, or any other person supposed to be connected with Mr. Hastings, a sum of money for giving his consent to the abolition of the Provincial Councils?

Certainly never.

Was you resident at Benares at the time of the insurrection of Cheyt Sing?

I was.

Did you receive information that during that insurrection the two Begums had excited disturbances in Oude, or either of them?

On the day of Captain Mayaffer's defeat at Ramnagur, Mr. Johnson had unaccountably persuaded Mr. Hastings that the best thing for his safety and the welfare of the Company was, that he (Mr. Hastings) should retreat by Jehanpoor, either to Sultanpoor, or Fyzabad, I do not recollect which; and the small body of troops that were then with us were ordered to be ready. As soon as this

was

was made public, the Dauk Moonshy, who transacted the business of the posts under me, came to me with information that large bodies of horse were coming from the extreme parts of the Rajah's dominions by that road; and that Nudjibs and other troops were coming from the district of Fyzabad by that road; and at the same time told me, that immediately as soon as Rajah Cheyt Sing had acquired his liberty by the assassination of the guard over him, he (Rajah Cheyt Sing) had dispatched letters, by messengers on horseback, to Fyzabad.

Was you of opinion, from any other facts within your own knowledge, that the Begums and the Eunuchs did afford assistance to Cheyt Sing during the insurrection?

I do not wish to answer to matters of opinion; but I at that time considered, being within two hundred miles of their place, their disaffection as much a thing of notoriety as the American war, or any other event that I had not myself seen.

Do you recollect having conversed with English gentlemen upon that subject? and did that seem to be the prevailing opinion amongst them?

It is a matter I cannot give in evidence, because I cannot name the person I talked to upon that subject?

Do you believe you did converse with English gentlemen upon that subject?

I believe I did—I recollect Captain David Williams, but did not mention him, as his evidence is before the house.

Was you instructed by Mr. Hastings to demand fifty lacks of Rupees on the Company's account from Cheyt Sing, previous to the insurrection at Benares?

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

The question was repeated.

Never.

Have you reason to believe that Cheyt Sing was told by any other person that Mr. Hastings had made that demand?

I was informed at that time by Mr. Hastings, that Mr. Wheler and Major Palmer, and, I believe, Mr. Anderson, were the only persons acquainted with the measure which he meant to carry into execution, that is, of taking the fifty lacks from the Rajah. I was the confidential friend of Mr. Hastings, and the resident at Benares: I therefore do not suppose that it could have gone through any other channel, or possibly have come to the ears of Rajah Cheyt Sing at that time, and not till after Mr. Hastings published his narrative, as I believe it was not till then generally known.

Was

Was you present at the conversation between Mr. Hastings and Cheyt Sing in the Budjero or boat?

No.

Was you present at all conversations between Mr. Hastings and Cheyt Sing's Vakeel?

To the best of my recollection, immediately upon Mr. Hastings's arrival at Benares he refused to see Cheyt Sing, or any Vakeel from Cheyt Sing; but I certainly was not present at any conversation between Mr. Hastings and the Vakeel.

Was you at Benares and Chunar when Sir Elijah Impey took the depositions at those places, relating to Cheyt Sing's insurrection, and the conduct of the Begums?

I was; but was present but once, to the best of my recollection, when any deposition was taken, and I forget who the people were that made them.

Did you yourself make any deposition on either of those subjects?

I really do not immediately recollect, but if I did it will appear in the book. I considered the depositions as an idle business, and therefore it had no weight on my mind; but I believe I did not.

Do you know any reason why you was not called upon to be examined in this committee, previous to the vote of this committee on those subjects?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The question was repeated.

I can only say what I heard without doors—that the prosecutor did not suppose my evidence would go to establish the facts which he asserted; and that Mr. Hastings's friends did not call me, as they have called no witnesses:—This is only hearsay.

Do you know whether or not Bahar Ally Cawn was at Chunar, or Benares, while Mr. Hastings was at either of those places?

I believe not; at least I had no intercourse with him, so as to know that he was there.

Did you hear from any one, that he was at either of those places?

To the best of my knowledge not.

Was Mrs. Hastings at Chunar?

After the country was settled, she came first to Benares, and then at Chunar.

What time do you refer to by saying, "after the country was settled?"

When the disturbances, occasioned by Cheyt Sing's revolt, were at an end.

Do you mean after the taking of Bidjegur?

Before the capture of Bidjegur; but as that was so far distant, and confined to such a nook, (if I may use the expression,) of the districts of Benares, I hardly reckon that amongst the disturbances, the rest of the country being perfectly quiet.

Was it before Mr. Hastings returned from Chunar to Benares the first time?

After Mr. Hastings returned to Benares.

Then Mr. Hastings did not see Mrs. Hastings at Chunar till he had gone a second time to that fort?

Mr. Hastings, to the best of my recollection, met Mrs. Hastings on the river somewhere below Benares, after he had returned to Benares from Chunar.

Do you recollect the date, or within a few days of the time?

It was an event that I thought of so little consequence it made no impression on my memory.

How long was it after the Nabob had departed from Chunar?

The Nabob departed from Chunar before Mr. Hastings had left Chunar to return to Benares.

Then the Nabob did not see Mrs. Hastings at Chunar?

No, he did not.

Nor at Benares?

He did not.

Was it usual for natives desirous of access to Mr. Hastings to be introduced by Cantoo Baboo?

I wish the question to be explained to me——does the question mean, to be introduced at the door as a matter of ceremony, or that nobody could get access to Mr. Hastings but through Cantoo Baboo?

Was it usual for natives, desirous of communicating with Mr. Hastings upon business, or other matters, to be introduced by, and to make their applications through Cantoo Baboo?

Some I believe did——some through Mr. Hastings's Moonshee——some through his Aresbeg, or servant of ceremony——many by the native officers, or the European officers of government.——But I believe a man of high rank would have considered it as disgraceful to have made application for introduction to any body but Mr. Hastings himself; and he was always ready to receive such.

What was Mr. Hastings's Moonshee's name?

I really do not recollect, though I often saw him.

Was he known to be much in Mr. Hastings's confidence?

I do not believe that Mr. Hastings held him in very high esteem as a man of ability—and was therefore more employed

ployed in the drudgery of business than in confidential business—but I should not wish this to be taken upon my evidence, for he might be often employed in confidential business.

Did you ever find that the Moonshee and Cantoo Baboo had been employed in secret matters relating to the receipt of presents by Mr. Hastings, which had not been communicated to Mr. Middleton, and others of Mr. Hastings's confidential friends?

I did not know of the receipt of any present, unless by common report in England and in India, excepting the one mentioned in the former part of my evidence.

Then you was not acquainted by Mr. Hastings with the receipt of the present of 100,000*l.* and upwards from the Nabob at Chunar?

I was not—for as it did not come into my department as resident at Benares, communication would have been unnecessary.

Did you hear no rumour of that or other presents, given by the Nabob to Mr. Hastings at that period?

I did not—and afterwards only understood that ten lacks was paid into the Company's treasury, and not received by Mr. Hastings.

Do you recollect when you first heard at all of the transaction?

Not till after it was a thing talked of in public—but the precise time I cannot say.

Was you at Chunar when the Nabob parted from Mr. Hastings?

I was.

Did Husein Reza Cawn and Hyder Beg Cawn go with the Nabob, or remain behind?

It is a thing I really do not recollect, as I was not concerned in any business relating to Oude.

[The first part of the witness's answer to the 2d question, at the beginning of his evidence, was again read to him.

As the first part of your answer to the second question put to you has no relation to the question, for what purpose have you introduced those circumstances?

I thought it was necessary to mention the reasons of Mr. Hastings's going to Sir John Day, as his relation of the matter of the present of the two lacks to me in the carriage afterwards grew out of the conversation which must have passed between him and Sir John Day. I did not mean to enter into the merits of the cause, or to have brought it before the attention of the committee.

Do you mean to affirm, that the expence was the only or only material objection made by Mr. Wheler and Mr. Francis to the proposed expedition in Malva, under Major Camac?

I have affirmed nothing of the kind—I have only repeated a conversation between Mr. Hastings and myself, that he said that it was the material part of the objection—It is not I that say it.

Do you mean to affirm, that Mr. Wheler approved of the abolition of the Provincial Councils, and of the institution of the committee of revenue in 1781?

I have never spoken of the institution of the committee of revenue.—I remember perfectly Mr. Wheler's opinion at that time was, that the collection of the revenues by councils was not a wise manner of collecting it—and that at that time his idea was, it would have been better for the country, if small appointments for collections had been made, each to about the amount of eight or ten lacks, and the Company's servants had been appointed to them.

Did Mr. Wheler approve of the change upon the whole—the abolition of the Councils, and the institution of the committee of revenue in the place of the Councils?

I do not recollect whether any conversation passed between myself and Mr. Wheler respecting the committee of revenue.

Might it not possibly happen, that Mr. Hastings might have made an offer of a sum of money to Mr. Wheler without your knowing it?

I think it most probable that if such a thing was, I should not have known it—because both the one and the other would have avoided letting people into a secret which, upon the face of it, it was for their mutual interest to conceal.

And the witness was directed to withdraw.

DAVID ANDERSON, Esquire, called in, and examined.

How long was you in the Company's Civil Service in Bengal?

About 18 years.

Was you principally employed in the revenue line?

Yes.

When was you appointed president of the committee of revenue in Bengal?

About the end of February 1781.

Did

Did you, while president of that committee, hear that Rajah Cullian Sing and Kellaram had given a sum of money, or a Teep for a sum of money, to Mr. Hastings?

When I received the summons of this house, I enquired to what point I was likely to be examined.—In consequence thereof I made a minute of such circumstances as I could recollect regarding it. If the committee will give me leave, I beg to refer to that minute.

From whom did you make that enquiry?

From Major Scott.

From whence did you take that minute?

From no place.—It is a minute only of the circumstances which I could recollect.

Is that minute made by yourself?

It is.

Did you, while President of the Committee of Revenue, hear that Rajah Cullian Sing and Kellaram had given a sum of money, or a Teep for a sum of money, to Mr. Hastings?

About the end of the year 1780, or the beginning of 1781, I frequently heard reports of money being paid, or promised to be paid, to Mr. Hastings by people concerned in farming or collecting the revenues; and, in particular, I heard that a sum, which to the best of my recollection was said to be 4 lacks of Rupees, had been paid, or promised to be paid, to him by Kellaram in behalf of himself and Cullian Sing, for making the settlement of Bahar.—At first I paid no regard to these reports, as I had little concern with them, and scarcely believed them—but after I came to be President of the General Committee of Revenue, some circumstances made me treat the report regarding Kellaram and Cullian Sing more seriously—I think it was a private correspondence which I had with a friend at Patna, who mentioned to me that one of the parties, I believe Cullian Sing, had positively asserted that a sum was either paid or promised to Mr. Hastings—I well remember that I went to Mr. Hastings, and mentioned to him what I had heard, and that he told me to give myself no concern or uneasiness on the subject, but to proceed in the discharge of my duty, without regard to any thing I might hear—for that any money that had been received from Kellaram, and all the sums which had been received from any of the persons employed in the revenue, were paid in on account of the Company to the Sub-Treasurer, Mr. Croftes—and I remember, that either upon this or upon some other occasion, he (Mr. Hastings) told me that he thought it was right at that time of public distress to take that method of procuring money for the Company, which

which could not be procured as part of the established revenue.—I do not remember that I ever spoke on the subject to Mr. Croftes, though it is very possible I did, as he and I met daily at that time in the course of our business, and we were on a very friendly footing—this I am sure of, that nothing that I ever afterwards heard, led me to form the smallest doubt of the truth of what Mr. Hastings had told me.

Who was the person from whom you received the letter sent to you from Patna, and whether that letter exists?

The letter was from Mr. Thomas Law—and I do not know whether it exists or not, as most of my papers are in Scotland, and I have not had an opportunity of referring to them lately.

Do you know any other circumstances, besides that letter, which induces you to believe that money was given to Mr. Hastings?

I have already mentioned reports; but I do not recollect any other circumstance.

Did Mr. Hastings at any time interfere, to prevent the Committee of Revenue from realizing the full amount of the revenues from Patna, Dinagepoor, or Nuddea?

I do not recollect that ever he did, while I continued to officiate as President of the Committee of Revenue.

Did Mr. Hastings interfere, to prevent the committee from realizing the full amount of the revenues from any other divisions of the provinces?

I do not recollect that ever he did.

Was you in habits of intimacy and confidential communication with Mr. Shore, who was President in your absence?

Yes.

Did Mr. Shore ever complain, that Mr. Hastings interfered to prevent the committee from realizing the full amount of those revenues?

I do not remember that Mr. Shore ever made such complaint.

Did Mr. Hastings, while you presided in the committee, support its authority in its full extent?

Yes.

Was the British Empire in India in a very precarious state at the close of the year 1781?

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The question was repeated.

As that is a matter of opinion, I should myself have wished to have declined saying what I thought on the subject; but as the committee are pleased to ask the question, I think

I think myself bound to answer it.—I think the British Empire in India was in a very precarious state during the whole of the year 1781, and for some time after.

Did the separate treaty with Madajee Scindia remove the danger and difficulties with which the English were surrounded in every part of India in 1781, and in part of the following year?

By no means in every part of India; it diminished our danger in that particular quarter.

Did it operate to the relief of the distresses in the Carnatic?

Not immediately; it led to measures which certainly enabled the government of Bengal, at a future period, to give more effectual relief to the Carnatic.

Was you deputed by Mr. Hastings to negotiate a peace with the Marattas?

Yes.

Did you receive a letter, while in the Camp of Madajee Scindia, from Lord Macartney and the select committee at Madras, dated some time in March 1782, representing the distressed state of the Carnatic?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

The question was repeated.

Yes.

Have you that letter?

Yes.

You will produce it?

The letter is written in cypher; and the translation of it is made by myself—It is decyphered by myself.

Was you in possession of the key for decyphering that letter?

Yes.

[The witness delivers in the letter.]

And then he was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in, the letter was delivered back to him.

Did the letter which you received from the President and Select Committee of Fort St. George, dated 15th March 1782, describe their situation generally, as in the highest degree alarming and dangerous?

It certainly did.

You will go on to state the contents of that letter?

And the question being objected to;

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

He was asked;

Whether, during the troubles of Benares, the Begums,
or

or either of them, according to any information you received, excited disturbances in Oude?

I understood that there were troubles in Oude, and that they were excited by the Begums.

Was it a generally received opinion amongst the English gentlemen then at Benares, that troops had been levied at Fyzabad for the service of Cheyt Sing?

I have heard the circumstance; but I do not remember whether it was a general received opinion or not.

Whether Mr. Hastings informed you, while you was at Benares, or since, that he had demanded 50 lacks of Rupees from Cheyt Sing?

He never did.

Do you recollect having any conversation at Benares or Chunar, with a Vackeel of the Nabob of Farruckabad?

I had frequent conversations with him at Benares.

Did the Vackeel inform you that his master was dissatisfied with the conduct of Mr. Shee, and had applied to Mr. Hastings for his removal?

He complained that the Resident of the English encroached upon the authority of his master, and he therefore certainly wished his removal; but I do not recollect whether or not he said he had applied to Mr. Hastings.

Why, as you said you had left all your papers and letters in Scotland, you happen to have with you the letter from Lord Macartney, which is in cypher?

I believe the honourable member who has proposed the question has misinterpreted my answer; he will find I did not say all.

Whether you do or do not know that receiving presents by any of the servants of the Company, is not only contrary to the orders of the Directors, but contrary to law?

I have understood it is contrary to the orders of the Directors; but as to the point of law, I cannot offer any opinion to this house.

Whether in your opinion Mr. Hastings receiving 4 lacks of rupees from the two farmers of Bahar is not directly contrary to the orders of the Directors?

If he received them on his own account, I imagine they were.

If he did receive them without any order from the Directors for so doing, is it not your opinion that he was acting contrary to their orders?

I do not recollect ever to have heard that there was any order of the Court of Directors, that the Governor General should not receive money, and bring it to the public account.

Did

Did you ever read the act appointing the Governor General, or are you totally ignorant of it?

I have read it.

What is your opinion of it?

I do not presume to offer any opinion of it to this house.

Why did you select from your papers (the most of which you say you left in Scotland) this particular paper which you have now produced?

Thinking that my correspondence whilst I was employed in the negotiation of the Maratta peace might possibly be wanted during my residence in London, I endeavoured to collect all the papers which had any relation to that subject, and brought them along with me.—That letter is one of the papers.

Was you, or was you not, desired to come immediately to London, and to bring this letter and many other papers with you?

I had several motives for coming to London.—Several of my friends wished me to come up, but none of them desired me to bring that letter in particular, nor any other.

What are the names of those several friends?

If the committee wish to know their names, I have no objection.—Mr. Hastings was certainly one of them.

How long have you been in London?

I came up in November last.

Did the established revenue of Bâhar fall in arrear in the year 1781, and what was the balance?

I can only speak from hearsay. I have heard it fell in arrear, but how much I cannot say.—I was at that time in the Maratta country.

Do you think it a just and safe principle in the management of the revenues, for a Governor General to take money privately from the farmers, in preference to making it part of the public established revenue?

It is very difficult for me to form an opinion immediately upon that point.—There may be many arguments for it, and many against it.

Can you state any argument for it?

It may be said that it was a custom in the Mahometan government to receive money as a Peshcush, besides the established revenue; and it might also be said, that the Zemindars or farmers would agree to an extra-payment of that kind, when they would not agree to an increase of the established revenue: but how far these, or any other arguments which might be suggested in favour of it, will sufficiently justify the practice, I cannot pretend to form any opinion upon.

Would you recommend such a principle to the East India Company, for the management of their revenue?

I am really incapable of saying whether I would or not.

Do you think that mode the surest to realize the greatest revenue from the country, and the most secure against fraud and collusion?

It is certainly not the surest against fraud and collusion, but it certainly might answer as an expedient to raise money for a temporary occasion.

Is it your opinion that the Two Farmers General of Bahar paying 40,000*l.* before they received one farthing of the revenue, would enable them better in all time coming, to fulfil their agreement with the Company?

If the fact is established, that the money was paid before they received any part of the revenue, they certainly would not be enabled from thence to pay it the better.

Would they not be disenabled to pay it, so far as the 40,000*l.* went?

It certainly would be a diminution of their resources.

How long was you President of the Committee of Revenue instituted in 1781?

I retained the office of President to the Committee of Revenue from the end of February 1781 to the end of January 1785.

During what part of that period did you attend and act as President, and during what part of it was you engaged in other employments?

From the time I was appointed till about the middle of July I officiated as President—I was then ordered by the Board to accompany the Governor General to the upper provinces—In my way I was employed in adjusting some revenue business in Bahar.—In November 1781, whilst I was with the Governor General at Benares, an opening occurring for a general peace with the Marattas, the Governor General sent me upon that, and I continued until the month of November 1783—I was afterwards sent up to the Governor General at Lucknow till October or November 1784; from that time the remaining three months I officiated as President of the Committee of Revenue.

Did you ever see and examine an account of demand, receipt, and balances of the four first years of the Committee's settlement, viz. from April 1781 to July 1785, drawn up by Gunga Govin Sing?

I do not remember.

Was it not in Gunga Govin Sing's office to have drawn out such an account?

From his office such an account might certainly be drawn out—but for the information of the Board, it would have come

come more officially and properly from Mr. Crofts, who was Accountant General to the Revenue department.

How long, and at what periods, were Mr. Shore and Mr. Charters absent from the Committee of Revenue, and on what account?

I am not sure of the exact period of their absence. Mr. Shore was first absent at Dacca, forming the settlement there; he was afterwards absent at Patna, forming the settlement at that district. Mr. Charters was absent at Patna upon revenue business.

In your absence, and in the absence of Mr. Shore, on whom did the conduct of the whole business of the revenues of the three provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orixa, really and in effect devolve?

Upon the remaining members of the committee, Mr. Crofts and Mr. Evelyn.—Mr. Shore and Mr. Charters I believe were not absent at the same time.

Is it your deliberate opinion that the late Mr. Crofts did possess sufficient knowledge and experience in the revenue branch, as well as leisure from his other laborious avocations, to execute the duties of president of the committee?

I think he possessed abilities and knowledge enough to execute the duties of it as well as any (with a very few exceptions) of the Company's servants. I am not exactly sure what leisure he might have. I am sure it took up all my time. I know he had good assistance in his other office.

Did you ever read a paper written by Mr. John Shore, entitled, "Remarks on the Mode of administering justice to the Natives in Bengal, and on the Collection of the Revenues," and recorded by Mr. M'Pherson on the 18th day of May 1785?

I have read it in England.

Do you admit or deny the truth of the following opinion of Mr. Shore, relative to a Dewan of the committee of revenue, viz. "The committee must have a Dewan or executive officer, call him by what name you please. This man, in fact, has all the revenues paid at the presidency at his disposal; and can, if he has any abilities, bring all the renters under contribution. It is little advantage to restrain the committee themselves from bribery or corruption, when their executive officer has the power of practising both undetected."—"That to display the arts employed by a native on such occasions, would fill a volume. He discovers the secret resources of the Zemindars and renters, their enemies and competitors; and by the engine of hope and fear, raised upon these foundations, he can work them to his pur-

“poses. The committee, with the best intentions, best abilities, and steadiest application, must, after all, be a tool in the hands of their Dewan?”

I do not think that I should have written it quite so strong; but I do in a great measure agree to it, that is, I think there is a great deal of truth in his observation; I think, in particular, that it would require great exertion in the committee, and great abilities on the part of the President, to restrain effectually the conduct of the Dewan.

Who was Dewan of the committee, from the time of its institution, in the beginning of 1781, to the time you left Bengal?

Gunga Govin Sing.

Could the preceding opinions of Mr. Shore mean to apply to any person but Gunga Govin Sing?

I should imagine they apply generally to the system of appointing a Dewan.

From what specific experience could Mr. Shore draw that opinion, which you suppose to be general, but from the particular conduct of Gunga Govin Sing?

From no other experience but his own, in the discharge of his duty.

Did you not consider yourself as very much in the favour and confidence of Mr. Hastings?

I considered myself as being honoured with a very considerable share of his favour and confidence.

Whether Mr. Hastings informed you of the money which he had taken privately from the Vakeel of Cheyt Sing?

Never. Mr. Hastings's communications to me were generally confined, at that period, to the business in which I was myself engaged.

Did he ever inform you of any money which he had taken from Nundoo du Loll?

Never.

Did he ever inform you of any money which he had taken from Nobkissen?

No, never.

Whether he informed you of the money which he had taken from Kelloram and Cullian Sing, Farmers General of the Province of Bahar, before you applied to him on that occasion?

Never.

Were not all those four latter persons concerned in the management and collection of the revenue, and subject to your Board?

They were; but from what I have since heard I understand that the transaction relative to them, excepting Nundoo

doo du Loll and Nobkissen, happened before the Board was constituted.

Whether, before the Board was constituted, these persons were not under the jurisdiction of some of the Provincial Councils?

They were; but I believe immediately before the constitution of the Board, the districts of Bahar and Dinagepoor paid their revenues directly to the Presidency, and were withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the Provincial Council; but of this point I am not very clear.

With whom did they make their settlement, and to whom did they pay their rents, at the intermediate time which you have stated?

If I remember right, to the Governor General and Council.

Was there no intermediate officer between the Governor General and Council and them to settle their accounts, and receive their rents?

I believe none, unless the Roy Royan and the superintendant of the Kalfah; but regarding that period my own recollection is not very clear, because my own attention was confined at that time to the district under my own superintendence.

Do you not know enough of the constitution of the Company's system of revenue, to know under whose jurisdiction they must necessarily be in the first instance?

No; because the system was liable to changes.

You will distinctly answer whether or no all Farmers of Revenue have not some intermediate person to make the settlement, and collect the rents between them and the Governor General?

It was usual, doubtless, to have some intermediate person; but many instances may be found on the Company's records of the settlement being immediately made by the Governor General and Council.

Whether you have any reason to believe that the Governor General and Council did make the settlement with these Farmers publicly at the Board, in their own character of Governor General and Council?

I know so very little of the matter, that I cannot say whether I have reason to believe that they did, or that they did not. I have already observed, that I was at that time confined to my own particular department, and at the distance of fifty-six miles from Calcutta.

When you came to the head of the revenue department, was it not your duty to know something concerning the settlement made by these men, and to whom they had paid

paid their rents previous to your appointment to the Board.

And the question being objected to,

The witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in,

The question was repeated.

It certainly was my duty to know the amount of the settlement, and the various conditions of it, amongst which must be to whom, and at what particular place, the revenue ought to be paid; but I do not conceive that it was my duty to ascertain by whom, or in what manner, the settlement was made.

You are a man of business——could you possibly know what a recent settlement was, and where the revenue was to be paid, without knowing to which of the Company's officers that revenue was payable, and who it was that had made that settlement?

I think I must have known to which of the Company's officers it was payable, because the Kalsah was the office under the Council, to which only any revenues not made payable to the Provincial Councils, or the Collectors, could well be paid; and of that office there was a regular superintendant: But I might have heard generally that the settlement of a district was made by the Governor General and Council, without knowing what particular officer they chose to employ in effecting it, or whether it was done immediately at the Board, in their own presence, or not.

You are desired to answer not as to what you might hear, but as to what you officially knew?

I do not remember that I knew any thing officially, further than what I have said.

Did you not know that Gunga Govin Sing was concerned in the settlement or collection of Dinagepoor, one or both?

I did not know officially that he was concerned in the settlement——I may have heard it, and I think I have: But with respect to his being concerned in the collections of Dinagepoor, before the General Committee of Revenue was formed, so far from knowing it then, if this Committee have it not before them on authentic evidence, I should be inclined to doubt it at this moment.

You are desired to say in what capacity Gunga Govin Sing made the settlement of Dinagepoor?

I do not know positively that he did make the settlement of Dinagepoor; but if he did, he may have done it as deputy Canongoe, which office he held; or as a person in whose knowledge and abilities the Governor General and Council could confide.

If

If he was not concerned in the public collection, what must be the effect of collecting a sum of money in that Province privately for the Governor General in the collection of another person?

I should think it scarcely probable that he did collect in that Province—if he collected any thing, it was more likely to be remitted to him in Calcutta.

Through whose hands did the negotiation or settlement of the money privately paid to Mr. Hastings from the Patna district, pass?

I do not know.

Have you heard of the transaction, without hearing of the agent?

Yes.

Did you never enquire?

Most likely I never did.

Did you or did you not enquire?

I can speak to the best of my recollection that I never did.

Do you think that if your Dewan was a private agent for the Governor General, in the collection of a secret revenue for him, and that he was known to be such among the Farmers, it would not much weaken the power and authority of your Board, and strengthen that of the Dewan?

I did not find it so.

Whether you did not attend Mr. Hastings up to Benares in 1781?

I attended him up to Patna, and rejoined him at Benares.

What reason did the Governor General give for taking you from your duty, and causing you to attend him to Benares?

I believe his reasons are upon record—I believe it was because he thought I could be of assistance to him.

In what?

In the objects of his journey.

What were those objects?

They are detailed in the Governor General's minute.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And being again called in;

He was asked,

For what purpose was you taken up to Benares?

For the purpose of assisting the Governor General in such business as might come before him in his journey to the Northern Provinces.

Was

Was you entrusted by the Governor General with the knowledge of the presents which he had taken from the Nabob and his ministers?

No—I was not.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

And it being proposed to examine William Popham, Esquire, a member, in his place;

The said member declined being examined.

Then an Extract of a Letter from the Governor General and Council of Bengal, dated Fort William, October 16, 1781, signed Edward Wheeler, John Macpherson, was read, as follows.

‘ 25. Fortunately for the other presidencies, cultivation was never in higher perfection, or more productive, than it is at present, in this country. There is likewise a prospect of great increase, with more ease to the natives, from the present mode of collecting the revenue. In every new arrangement, the satisfaction and security of the natives must be first considered; it is upon their happiness a wise government will ever endeavour to establish its prosperity, and whatever line the issue of war may leave, as the boundary of our territories over all India, upon the establishment of general peace, policy, if not justice, directs, that our chief frontiers should be occupied by allies, who have an interest in standing between us and the incursions of enemies; and who should be taught to feel that their arms were necessary only against those enemies, and not against our own ambition.’

Then an Extract of the Revenue Letter from Bengal, dated 24th August 1786, received by the Ranger, was read, as follows,

‘ 6th. In our last dispatch from the Public Department, under date the 3d of July last, you were duly informed of the abolition of the committee, and consequent institution of the new Board of Revenue; and we now beg leave to refer you to the consultation marked in the margin, for the few general regulations which we have prepared and furnished them with, to serve as a constitution to their Board; on which we shall only here further observe, that the rules therein prescribed for their guidance, are drawn principally from those establish-
ed

ed at the institution of the late Committee of Revenue in February 1781, with such alterations only as your orders of the 21st of September 1785, appeared to render necessary.

7th. We feel great satisfaction in being able to transmit to you a number in the packet, the copy of a letter addressed to us from the office of the Accountant General to the Revenue Department, conveying two statements (copies of which are also transmitted) of the reductions we have been able to make in the charges of that department; from which you will observe the manner in which they have been ultimately reduced within the sum of 72,00,000 of rupees, to which your order of the 11th of April 1785 had limited them. The accounts above referred to being in themselves sufficiently explanatory, we shall only observe, that you may rely on our utmost attention to keep this establishment in time to come within the bounds to which you have confined it.

8th. The Board of Revenue having just furnished us with a general state of the settlement, receipts, and balances of the Revenues of Bengal and Bahar, for the Bengal year 1192, ending in April last, we have the honour of transmitting a copy of it a number in the Packet, together with a copy of the Board of Revenue's address to us on this occasion, and of the several accompanying explanations of the ultimate balance; which we are happy to observe to be comparatively so very inconsiderable, amounting on the whole to only rupees 8,86,269. 11. 92. of which the Board deem nearly 6 lacks to be still recoverable; so that we have reason to believe that the collections in general for the last Bengal year 1192, or 1785-6, have been very successfully realized, as will be sufficiently evident, from a comparison of the accounts of this and former years, since the date of your servants himself assumed the immediate agency of the Dewanny; and we have the more satisfaction in making this remark, from the opinion we entertain, that so near a completion of the collection of the annual rental has not been the effect of any strain on the country at large, or on any part thereof; which is, we are convinced, well enough able to bear its present assessment, provided due care be taken to prevent all oppressions from individuals; and, if our present views succeed, in respect to the advantages expected to be derived from the institution of the office of Sheristadar, and the

Q

proposed

‘ proposed general enquiry into the Bazee Zeemcen,
 ‘ or alienated lands, your government in this coun-
 ‘ try may have the happiness of increasing perhaps
 ‘ considerably further your territorial resources, with-
 ‘ out injury to the inhabitants from whom they were
 ‘ derived.’

Then an Extract of a Minute of Warren Hastings,
 Esquire, in the Revenue Department, dated in De-
 cember 1782 *, was read as follows :

‘ This estimate being formed on sales actually
 ‘ made, it must be correct ; and it appears, that the
 ‘ profit has greatly exceeded the expectations of the
 ‘ comptroller, when he delivered in his last estimate,
 ‘ from which the above-mentioned sum of Sicca Ru-
 ‘ pees 29,93,132. 2. 14. 3 was stated,

‘ I shall close this minute by stating the increase
 ‘ which has actually been made in the revenue
 ‘ branch, as it has been proved by the preceding cal-
 ‘ culations : I include the profit on the salt, although
 ‘ formed on a comparison of a more remote period
 ‘ than that of the land revenue, because it is the
 ‘ effect of a new and improving source, which, until
 ‘ the year 1187, yielded a very scanty and precarious
 ‘ revenue, and even that annually declining ; and
 ‘ which was improved in the succeeding year, 1188,
 ‘ and will most probably be made to yield a still grea-
 ‘ ter increase of income.

‘ I shall add the profit arising to the Company
 ‘ from the reduction on the price of the articles of
 ‘ which the investment is composed, because it must
 ‘ be considered as an increase of income to the Com-
 ‘ pany in Europe ; and it is a particular satisfaction
 ‘ to me, to find that the whole amounts to upwards of
 ‘ one million sterling per annum.

* Vide Paper, intituled, “ Copy of Minutes of Warren
 ‘ Hastings, Esquire, and John Macpherson, Esquire, in the
 ‘ Revenue Department, relative to the increase of the Re-
 ‘ venues, dated in December 1782.”

' The Increase is as follows :

* On Land Revenue, as before			
‘ stated Sa. Rs. 32,40,150		15	10 3;
		or, Cr. Rs. 37,58,575	2 2 0
* Salt do. Sa. Rs. 40,91,769			
		12	18 2;
		or, Cr. Rs. 47,46,452	15 7 0
		Cr. Rs. 85,05,028	1 9 0
* To this I add the reduction in the			
‘ cost of investment, which I esti-			
‘ mate at		—	—
			12,00,000 0 0 0
* Total increase of annual income to			
‘ the Company,		—	Cr. Rs. 97,05,028 1 9 0

' Making, at the Company's exchange of two shil-
' lings and a penny for the Current Rupee, the sum
' of pounds sterling one million ten thousand nine
' hundred and forty-eight, eight shillings six-pence
' and three farthings.

' (Signed) WARREN HASTINGS.'

Then an Extract of Mr. Macpherson's Minute, dated
in December 1782 *, was read, as follows.

' As a supplement to the Governor General's mi-
' nute, and in further testimony of the advantages
' which the Company derive from an united admi-
' nistration in their controuling presidency, under the
' direction of animated public zeal and great talents,
' I beg here to subjoin an extracted account signed
' by the Acting Accountant General, which shews
' that the efforts of this government to support the
' other presidencies in supplies of money, provisions,
' and military stores, have been such as must draw
' the admiration of our employers.

' Previous to my arrival in India, these efforts of
' supply were great and well-timed, especially in the
' Carnatic; but the very increase of the resources,
' which the Governor General has stated in his mi-
' nute, and the severity with which the late Resident,
' and the subsequent Acting Resident at Oude, were
' called upon to do their duty to the Company,
' have been the sources from which our supplies in
' favour of the other presidencies have been chiefly
' derived.

* Vide same Paper.

Q 2

' The

‘ The total amount of these supplies, from the 30th
 ‘ September 1781 to the 1st of November 1782, ap-
 ‘ pears to be Current Rupees — 2,35,70,007 2 2

Then several Extracts of a Letter from Mr. Macpherson to the Court of Directors, dated Calcutta, 30th March 1783*, was read, as follows.

‘ Of the general distress of your affairs in all your
 ‘ presidencies in the latter end of August 1781, when
 ‘ I arrived at Madras, you have long since had au-
 ‘ thentic accounts; but of the danger to which the
 ‘ very existence of the Company was then exposed,
 ‘ you can have no adequate idea. Your army towards
 ‘ Bombay had been obliged to retreat from a gallant
 ‘ but unsuccessful enterprize towards Poona; and it
 ‘ required great bravery and skill to secure their retreat
 ‘ from the Gauts to the Sea side. Your presidency of
 ‘ Bombay was then near a Crore of Rupees in debt,
 ‘ notwithstanding the immense supplies from Bengal,
 ‘ and their newly-acquired Revenues. The utmost
 ‘ of their military exertions, though supported by an
 ‘ army from Bengal, and though they had raised
 ‘ many new battalions, was directed to keep the Ma-
 ‘ rattas in check.

‘ In the Carnatic, your principal settlement, and
 ‘ your main army under Sir Eyre Coote, were sur-
 ‘ rounded by the army of Hyder, who had indeed
 ‘ been defeated on the 1st of July 1781, but who
 ‘ from that check seemed only to have become more
 ‘ guarded and determined in his purpose. Neither
 ‘ your army, nor even Fort St. George itself, had at
 ‘ that time above a few days provisions in store; nor
 ‘ could there be any prospect of supply from the
 ‘ country. Your Treasury at Fort St. George was
 ‘ empty; your credit could not be said to exist in any
 ‘ active force.

‘ At Bengal, on which your other presidencies de-
 ‘ pended almost entirely for supplies, your treasury
 ‘ was drained, and every effort of raising money by
 ‘ loan, by annuity, and by partial remittances, had
 ‘ been tried; and, to complete the measure of your
 ‘ difficulties, a rebellion had broken forth upon your
 ‘ frontiers at Benares, which threatened destruction

* Vide copy of a letter from the Governor General and Council of Bengal, dated 16th October 1781, and from John Macpherson, Esquire, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company, dated in March 1783.

‘ to all your possessions, from the source of the
 ‘ mouths of the Ganges, and in every quarter of
 ‘ India.

‘ Such was the crisis at which it was my destiny to
 ‘ become one of the members of the superior admini-
 ‘ stration of India. Few, who could have seen the
 ‘ real difficulties of the part I had to act, would
 ‘ have envied my situation, and the most obstinate
 ‘ party contention had but ceased to rage in the scene
 ‘ where I was to begin my part.

‘ I shall leave it to your Governor and Com-
 ‘ mander in Chief, upon the coast of Coromandel,
 ‘ to state, whether I was of any aid to their Councils
 ‘ in so desperate a crisis. At all events, I esteem
 ‘ myself fortunate in having joined my efforts to theirs
 ‘ to promote a favourable impression upon the Maratta
 ‘ state. The confidence which the Nabob of Arcot
 ‘ reposed in my opinion was not unserviceable to the
 ‘ East India Company upon that trying occasion. I
 ‘ proposed that he should place the seal of the Carna-
 ‘ tic in the hands of the Commander in Chief of our
 ‘ Forces, that he might grant Sunnuds to the petty
 ‘ Rajahs and Poligars, to exempt them from future
 ‘ tributes, in proportion as they might assist the army
 ‘ with provision or force from their different retreats.
 ‘ It was my opinion that your seal should have been
 ‘ sent to guarantee these deeds of concession : Sir Eyre
 ‘ Coote felt the public advantages of this proposition,
 ‘ and marched through the Pollams of these Rajahs
 ‘ and Zemindars, that lay between Madras and Vel-
 ‘ lore : They supplied him with provisions ; he de-
 ‘ feated Hyder on the Plains of Shulinghur ; he after-
 ‘ wards relieved Vellore, took Chittoor, and return-
 ‘ ed to Madras, after an absence of about three
 ‘ months, when the supplies of provision from Ben-
 ‘ gal arrived seasonably for the support of Fort St.
 ‘ George and your army.

‘ On the 29th of September I arrived at Calcutta,
 ‘ where I found Mr. Wheler alone in charge of the
 ‘ government ; he was labouring with the best inten-
 ‘ tions, good humour, and ability, to maintain your
 ‘ affairs. I shall not attempt to describe the situation
 ‘ of the settlement, and the variety of apprehension
 ‘ that agitated the public opinion. The Governor
 ‘ General had with great spirit recovered his ground
 ‘ at Benares. The attachment and spirit of your of-
 ‘ ficers flew to him from every quarter ; but all the
 ‘ Provinces seemed still to tremble, from the shock
 ‘ of the convulsion on the 24th of August at Benares.

‘ The

‘ The collections did not flow in their regular course ;
 ‘ all depended upon regularity and vigour in that de-
 ‘ partment ; for your collections were chiefly in the
 ‘ hands of native Renters and Zemindars, and it is
 ‘ their rule to be no longer punctual in their pay-
 ‘ ments, than the state can attend to them respective-
 ‘ ly, and is in force to compel them.’

* ‘ To my superior colleagues must be due the
 ‘ chief merit of such reforms, for to them the labour
 ‘ must have been more irksome. As far as my own
 ‘ example would operate, in avoiding to trouble the
 ‘ public finance with the distresses of dependants, or
 ‘ the claims of favour and recommendation, your
 ‘ records will do me ample justice : On the encrease
 ‘ of the Revenue, I beg leave to refer to the Gover-
 ‘ nor General’s minute of the 13th December last,
 ‘ and my reply, in the Revenue Department.

‘ That minute shews, from accurate calculation
 ‘ and figures, that your resources have been virtu-
 ‘ ally encreased in the preceding year about 700,000
 ‘ pounds sterling. It may not be quite out of the
 ‘ way here to observe, that by enforcing the exact
 ‘ statements of your most able Accountant General,
 ‘ an error, which had gradually arisen to the amount
 ‘ of forty-three lacks of Rupees, in account between
 ‘ the Company and the Vizier at Oude, is now in
 ‘ train of realization, under the management of your
 ‘ new Resident at Oude, Mr. John Bristow, whom
 ‘ your Governor General promoted to that office
 ‘ agreeable to your orders, whenever he found that
 ‘ the former Resident neglected his duty.

‘ 5th. On the subject of the supplies which have
 ‘ been sent from hence, from the period of my ar-
 ‘ rival, for the support of the war in your other pre-
 ‘ sidencies, I have the honour of transmitting to you
 ‘ the accompanying official account, signed by your
 ‘ Accountant General ; from this account you will
 ‘ please to observe, that the amount remitted and ac-
 ‘ tually paid, from the 30th September 1781 to the
 ‘ 1st March 1783, is two crores and fifty-eight lacks
 ‘ one thousand three hundred and fifty-six rupees ;
 ‘ besides the treasure and stores that were sent some
 ‘ days since, with Sir Eyre Coote to the coast, and
 ‘ bills accepted by this government, and under pay-
 ‘ ment, making in all a sum little short of three mil-
 ‘ lions sterling.

* Read from the same Paper.

‘ If

‘ If you will take the trouble to peruse attentively
 ‘ the letters of this government to Madras and Bom-
 ‘ bay, and General Goddard, on the 26th December
 ‘ 1781, you will in those letters be not more satisfied
 ‘ with the exertions which this government have
 ‘ made in supply, than with the plan of co-operation
 ‘ which was so early recommended to both these pre-
 ‘ sidencies, and in which they were cautioned against
 ‘ the operations of our natural enemies, which, in
 ‘ the ensuing February, burst on the Carnatic.’

* ‘ It was my belief that Great Britain, after the
 ‘ opposition and separation of America, and attacked
 ‘ by so many powerful enemies at home and abroad,
 ‘ could neither exist in her finances nor liberties, if
 ‘ India was not saved, and our competitors here com-
 ‘ pletely counteracted.

‘ The separation of America came on by degrees ;
 ‘ and trade, which was our only return from thence,
 ‘ opened her course through other channels with suc-
 ‘ cess. America yielded to Britain no landed revenue ;
 ‘ and each colony there had, like the mother country,
 ‘ anticipated by debt the revenues of many years.
 ‘ India was scarcely one year’s revenue in debt. The
 ‘ loss of such a dominion, if it was to happen, would
 ‘ be sudden, would be total. It would be irrecover-
 ‘ able by any efforts from home. It would prove the
 ‘ instant loss of millions of individuals, and many
 ‘ millions of the public property. It would at once
 ‘ annihilate those funds which constitute the subsist-
 ‘ ence of all the creditors of the India Company, at
 ‘ home and abroad ; it would fall upon the other
 ‘ funds of the state with a shock that would strike
 ‘ the remotest land-holder in Britain, and involve
 ‘ him ultimately in the same fate with those who
 ‘ lived upon the interest of the public debts. But,
 ‘ to complete the misery of such an universal cata-
 ‘ strophe, our natural enemies, who were in force and
 ‘ alliance upon the spot, would succeed to the re-
 ‘ mains of our fortune ; from that succession they
 ‘ could maintain their future tenure, and dictate to
 ‘ Britain the last terms of despotic superiority.

‘ No person but one who had once seen the Car-
 ‘ natic in its prosperity, and who afterwards saw it
 ‘ in the misery in which I beheld it, could conceive
 ‘ the reality of the general scene of distress which I
 ‘ have described as within the possibility of human

* Read from the same Paper.

‘ events.

‘ events. There I saw men who supposed themselves,
 ‘ and who literally were, worth princely fortunes a
 ‘ few years before, absolutely in want of bread. The
 ‘ whole substance of a great colony, the credit of a
 ‘ mighty Company, and of Ally Princes, were ex-
 ‘ tinguished by the sword of desolation. “ You may
 ‘ come on shore,” writes Lord Macartney to me the
 ‘ day I came to anchor in the roads, “ but if the
 ‘ gentlemen who are passengers with you come along
 ‘ with you, they must sleep in the streets.” And
 ‘ where was at that instant the existence of the India
 ‘ Company? Only in the revenues of Bengal; and
 ‘ in Bengal a situation of affairs similar to that which
 ‘ existed in the Carnatic was to be greatly appre-
 ‘ hended; and had it actually taken place, I leave it
 ‘ to your own ideas to reflect whether the general ca-
 ‘ tastrophe which I have represented as possible, was
 ‘ not to be dreaded as a certain consequence. France
 ‘ looked to such a reversion in your fortune; and
 ‘ when you see her armaments prepared upon a scale
 ‘ of force and expence, which is the utmost that her
 ‘ faculties can send against India, you cannot be too
 ‘ sensibly awakened to the dangers you have escaped,
 ‘ nor consider those events as impossible, which could
 ‘ alone reimburse your natural enemies, or give them
 ‘ any prospect of future advantage from such extraor-
 ‘ dinary efforts.

‘ Such are the dangers to you, and to the public
 ‘ interests, which proper exertions in the office I
 ‘ hold might be instrumental to ward off and prevent,
 ‘ or which inability or wickedness in the same office
 ‘ might precipitate upon the state. In the period in
 ‘ which I held the office, and the crisis of that pe-
 ‘ riod, no British subject would possess a greater field
 ‘ for averting public evil, or rendering public ser-
 ‘ vice.—I became a member of your superior admin-
 ‘ nistration of India at a moment when it was a
 ‘ question whether India itself was not to be lost for
 ‘ ever, or greatly saved! For four months another
 ‘ member of government and I held the administra-
 ‘ tion; and for more than twelve months your admin-
 ‘ nistration consisted only of three members; so that
 ‘ I was the third and deciding voice between col-
 ‘ leagues, who had but recently recovered from ha-
 ‘ bits of a most decided opposition.’

Then

' affairs in the East was in alarming coincidence with
 ' the state of affairs in the West: America was finally
 ' lost; yet the enormous wealth which poured in from
 ' our mismanagements in India resisted the first effects
 ' of that event. The money acquired in the progress
 ' of our conquests in the Maratta country, the sur-
 ' plus revenue of India from 1778, and the aggregate
 ' amount of the Company's present debts at home
 ' and abroad, formed an immense fund of private
 ' property; it poured upon the nation in gold, in
 ' jewels, in silver, in bills, and in the cargoes of
 ' British and Foreign Indiamen; it formed a recruit
 ' for the public stock, which, amidst wise regula-
 ' tions, after the close of a most expensive war, and
 ' the loss of thirteen Provinces, raised the public
 ' funds to their former standard, and maintained
 ' Great Britain in her former power among nations.

' 10. Had India been lost, the scene would have
 ' been reversed; the capital of the Company's debts,
 ' and of those due by her allies and dependants,
 ' would have vanished like a dream; the returning
 ' cargoes, and the gold and jewels in the hands of
 ' British individuals, would have become the pro-
 ' perty of our enemies; and a landed revenue, near-
 ' ly equal to the unappropriated income of Great
 ' Britain, would have left us with only the remem-
 ' brance of past possession.

' 11. To examine by the standard of common
 ' misconduct any errors of those who prevented such
 ' a disaster, and saved such a stake for the Empire,
 ' is not the most liberal construction of justice, nor
 ' is it altogether worthy of a great nation. There
 ' cannot be a question but the salvation of India may
 ' be clearly traced to the effects of a general system;
 ' in which the following considerations strike with
 ' particular credit and efficacy.

' 12. The prompt and efficient public zeal of Mr.
 ' Hastings, in sending Sir Eyre Coote, with the pro-
 ' per force and resource, at the moment of danger,
 ' to the Carnatic; the unexampled perseverance and
 ' gallantry of that General, who expired in a last
 ' great effort for his country; the confidence of the
 ' Nabob of Arcot, who surrendered his remaining
 ' revenues to the Company; the systematic integrity
 ' with which those revenues were realized and dis-
 ' bursed; the eventful battle, in which Sir Edward
 ' Hughes, with a very inferior force, attacked, and
 ' discomfited and dispersed, the great expedition of
 ' Mr. Suffrein—a service to the nation, surpassed only
 ' by

by the modest merit of its author, and the wild enthusiasm with which France has celebrated the conduct of his opponent, whose future efforts could have no decisive effect in the contest for India.

13. Nor, in looking back to efforts of individual leaders, ought we to forget the first success of the unfortunate General Mathews; the decisive repulse of Tippoo, by General Macleod, at the head of his native corps, at Panang; the successes of Colonel Fullarton; and, above all, the defence of Mangalore, by Lieutenant Colonel Campbell—a defence which astonished our native enemies, and which obtained for its author, from the administration of the veteran officers of France, the appellation of the Turenne of India.

14. To specify more particularly the brilliant actions and meritorious service which, in the military and political line, effected the preservation of India, and the discomfiture of our native and European enemies, would be unnecessary: They are already known and applauded; and, to the general credit of our nation, it may be truly said, that those served best who had the greatest field for service, in the late war in India.

15. But, notwithstanding these distinguished features of the general scene of the last war, it must be acknowledged that, next to the efforts of the Company, and of His Majesty's Ministers at home, the safety of India was chiefly owing to the unwearied exertions of the Bengal Council for three years, and their firmness in that fortunate policy by which, while they provided the resources of the war, they maintained the Company's commerce and investment, disarming the hostility of the native states, and exerting every influence and force against the views of European adversaries.

16. If the Company will be pleased to re-peruse the letter of the Supreme Council of Bengal, written to them in the Secret Department on the 16th October 1781, they will find, that the general distress of their affairs at that time was fully comprehended, and fairly met; that systematic regulations were resolved upon to retrieve their interests; and that measures were promised, upon a clear and enlarged view of India, which were regularly fulfilled: Nothing can be more interesting than such a record, nor can the Company or the Nation peruse it with too much attention. You will pardon me for making some of the paragraphs a part of this

‘ letter. In times of future, and perhaps of similar
 ‘ distress, it will be fortunate if your ruling servants
 ‘ are equally successful in estimating events, and in
 ‘ fulfilling the promises which they may make to
 ‘ their country ; and permit me to observe, that in
 ‘ all times it will be no mean security to the public,
 ‘ if, without despondency or despair on one hand, or
 ‘ overweening confidence on the other, your servants
 ‘ pursue the manly line of ascertaining the remedy,
 ‘ without shrinking from the evil, and if finally they
 ‘ appeal to their first declarations, as the criterion of
 ‘ all their subsequent conduct.’

Then the following Extract of Bengal Secret Consultations of the 22d of October 1781, being a Letter from Fort St. George, dated the 20th of September 1781 *, was read, as follows :

‘ Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

‘ Amidst the difficulties which involve this settlement, it is some consolation to us, that a member
 ‘ of your Board has had so late an opportunity of
 ‘ judging, on the spot, of the evils which threaten or
 ‘ surround us, as well as our efforts to avert them.

‘ The enemy, beaten though not expelled, continues by his cavalry, to which we have no cavalry
 ‘ to oppose, to lay waste the whole country.

‘ We are thus deprived of provisions, and of revenue arising from any part of the territories belonging to this Presidency, except from the Circars.
 ‘ The expences of the Civil Establishment are about
 ‘ 18,000 Pagados per month. The military expences, exclusive of the detachment sent from Bengal under
 ‘ Colonel Pearse, amount to about 2,00,000 Pagodas monthly. The civil and military arrears exceed already 10 lacks of Pagodas.—To answer such demands, there is now in the treasury the sum of
 ‘ about 1,50,000 Pagodas, with little expectation of getting any considerable remittances from our subordinates for several months.

‘ That the garrison daily attacked or threatened, and the army occupied in the field, might have less
 ‘ occasion to murmur on account of arrears, we have
 ‘ stopped all payment in the Civil Establishment for a
 ‘ year past ; which, though proper in the considera-

* Read from Copy of Consultations and Correspondence relative to Mr. Auriol's agency for supplying Rice, &c. to the other Presidencies.

tion we have mentioned, has however thrown the settlement into very poignant distress.

The army having been entirely supplied with provisions from hence, and the consumption of this settlement so increased by the fugitives from the cruelties of Hyder, we now, notwithstanding the great importations of grain from Bengal and the Circars, have not 1,000 bags in store: There are about 18,000 bags in divers Vessels in the road. From the list you sent us of ships said to be bound from Calcutta with grain, for the account of the Company and individuals, there remains seventy thousand bags of rice to arrive yet here; but by a calculation of the consumption of that article, restrained as it has been by the high price it bore, and by regulations in the vent of it, it is evident that nothing less than a supply of 150,000 bags will prevent, before the end of the year, a famine here, of the approach of which there appears at present some most affecting symptoms. Our letters from the Circars, though they mention abundance of grain, declare also the impossibility of sending it to us, through want of tonnage. We have indeed taken up the few Ships that could be had here, to bring us provisions from thence, but the whole is inconsiderable, comparatively to the prospect of our wants; and it is from your hands, whose liberality in furnishing us troops, money, and provisions, we have so long and so much experienced, that we must expect our chief support.

We must observe, that we have had no assistance, of any kind, from the southern parts of this coast. Many of the forts are in possession of our European or Indian enemies, which has greatly interrupted the communication; and the seizure, by some of his Majesty's squadron, of Vessels laden with grain for this market, as belonging to black people residing under the protection of the Dutch, is thought to have deterred many others, in their neighbourhood, from venturing out with supplies for us.

To the continuance of these evils we are not yet able to foresee a termination; for, though the bravery and discipline of our troops, and the ability and experience of Sir Eyre Coote, have been attended with repeated victories, yet such are the difficulties that obstruct his progress, such is the facility the enemy possesses of over-running and desolating the country, that the General entertains but little hope of enabling us to draw any supply of food

' food or treasure from it. He has not been able
 ' hitherto to penetrate far into the country, either to
 ' the relief of our remote garrisons, or to the attack
 ' of the principal forts held by Hyder. As the whole
 ' conduct of the war has been entrusted to him, in
 ' consequence of a resolution of the late administra-
 ' tion here, we have applied to him for a communica-
 ' tion of his intentions, absolutely necessary to be
 ' known to us now, though hitherto we have con-
 ' tented ourselves either in exerting our authority in
 ' the manner he desired, or transferring it to him, for
 ' the purpose of forwarding his measures. He is
 ' now engaged in an attempt to relieve the garrison of
 ' Vellore, and possibly to attack Arcot, of which the
 ' event will no doubt determine his future plans; on
 ' which, and on the necessity of our situation, the
 ' resolutions of this Presidency will be founded. If
 ' the enemy should still continue his depredations in
 ' the Carnatic, thereby depriving us, in fact, entirely
 ' of the benefit of it, we must, with regard to all
 ' effectual resource, consider ourselves as immured
 ' within the walls of Fort St. George; and, were
 ' even the enemy to withdraw from our neighbour-
 ' hood, so effectually have all traces of cultivation
 ' disappeared, so destroyed are the villages, so ruined
 ' and dispersed are the individuals who were em-
 ' ployed in tillage, that the inhabitants of the towns
 ' can, during part of next year, as well as in the end
 ' of the present, be by no other means preserved from
 ' famine than by external resource, mostly from your
 ' government.

' We owe to the situation in which you are placed
 ' respecting this settlement—we owe to the exertions
 ' which you have made to extricate it from its diffi-
 ' culties——to lay before you its present state, from
 ' which you may judge of the fatal consequences
 ' which may attend the continuance of the war in
 ' the Carnatic, if the enemy should not soon be
 ' driven from it by our army, or be otherwise induced
 ' to retreat from it. That very army, by the vast
 ' load of expence, and additional consumption of pro-
 ' visions, it must necessarily occasion, must hasten
 ' the misery of the settlement. Unless therefore our
 ' troops shall, in their present attempt, succeed, at
 ' least in procuring food and money for their own
 ' subsistence, we shall be compelled to divide them
 ' into cantonments;—happy if we could direct
 ' the

‘ the whole, or part of them, to some national ob-
 ‘ ject that might compensate for past disappoint-
 ‘ ment.

‘ We have the honour to be,

‘ Honourable Sir, and Sirs,

‘ our most obedient humble servants,

‘ (Signed)

‘ MACARTNEY,

‘ ANTH. SADLEIR,

‘ W^M. WILLIAMS.’

‘ Fort St. George,

‘ 20th September 1781.’

Then an Extract from the Supplement to the Second Report from the Select Committee, appointed to take into Consideration the State of the Administration of Justice in the Provinces of Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa *, was read, as follows.

‘ It appears to your committee, that if the conduct
 ‘ of Mr. Hastings towards Cheyt Sing, has been such
 ‘ as to merit the approbation of this house, the two
 ‘ members of the Supreme Council, Mr. Wheeler
 ‘ and Mr. Macpherson, are entitled to their share of
 ‘ that approbation, by the unreserved manner in
 ‘ which they have justified his acts. If, on the other
 ‘ hand, the House shall be of opinion, that the pro-
 ‘ ceedings against Cheyt Sing were unjust, oppressive,
 ‘ and contrary to public faith, those members of the
 ‘ Council who approved those proceedings are impli-
 ‘ cated in the criminality.’

Then an Extract of the Minute of the Board, entered in the Consultations of 14th January 1782 †, was read, as follows :

‘ On the subject of the Treaty concluded on the
 ‘ 18th of September last, between the Governor Ge-
 ‘ neral and the Nabob Vizier, and which the diffi-
 ‘ culties of the communication prevented the Gover-
 ‘ nor General from explaining so fully before ; the
 ‘ Board have to observe, that the Treaty is evidently
 ‘ a political expedient, which forfeits no advantage,
 ‘ which promises the acquisition of many, and which,
 ‘ properly managed by this government, (as events
 ‘ favourable, or even unfavourable, arise,) may lead

* Read from page 22 of the said paper.

† Read from Appendix, No. 13, to the Supplement to the second Report from the said Select Committee.

‘ to the final and complete arrangement of an alliance with the Vizier. Such an alliance, being less oppressive to him, may be more advantageous and honourable to the Company, and may remove that too general but dangerous impression, which the different States of this country have received from the double character in which we have hitherto appeared in India—that of allies and conquerors.

‘ If the Nabob Vizier should not be able, under the support of the troops of this government stationed at Cawnpore, to maintain the tranquillity of his dominions, and collect those resources which are necessary to defray even his reduced expences, and discharge his heavy debt to the Company, a new arrangement must follow; and that arrangement necessarily, at the express request of the Vizier, will secure every advantage that can be wished or expected from his provinces by this government.

‘ The reduction of that heavy burthen of expence, which was at once oppressive to the Vizier, and of no return to the Company, (though a source of patronage to this administration,) the Board approve of most heartily, and, with a full sense of the credit which a measure of such difficulty and unpleasantness reflects upon the Governor General, they take this occasion of pledging to him and to their employers their utmost support, not only in this, but in every other branch of public œconomical reformation which he may propose.

‘ Upon the return of the Governor General, the Board resolve to discuss with him those parts of the Treaty which carry the appearance of a hasty agreement. The disaffection of many of the Vizier’s principal Jagheerdars, and the steps which, from the representations of Colonel Hannay, and other officers, appear to have been rapidly taken by the Begums, to support the rebellion of Cheyt Sing, were probably very early known to the Governor General, and through the medium of all the suspicions that his situation, at the time he met the Vizier, had naturally created.

‘ At such a moment, and under such suspicions, and even while the issue of the contest of Cheyt Sing was depending, it is not surprizing that some parts of the agreement between the Governor General and the Vizier were speedily adjusted, and, as the Governor acknowledges, in conversation at their first interview.

‘ A short

‘ A short time will satisfy the Board, whether the
 ‘ Vizier is willing or able to fulfil his part of the
 ‘ Treaty: If he is that, and the Company can re-
 ‘ cover their debt from him in the present emergency
 ‘ and distress of their affairs, the Board cannot then
 ‘ but agree, that the Governor General has acted in
 ‘ the arrangement not only with zeal, and the best
 ‘ public intentions, but with a masterly decision, that
 ‘ must entitle him to the grateful and complete ap-
 ‘ probation of his employers.

‘ It remains with the Board to concert with the
 ‘ Governor General, upon his return, those measures
 ‘ that may secure this government from any future
 ‘ inconveniences or distress, that can be supposed con-
 ‘ nected with the confidence reposed in the Vizier,
 ‘ for the administration of the affairs of his revenue
 ‘ and military establishments.

The Governor General delivers in the following
 Minute, in consequence of that of the Board, en-
 tered on the proceedings of the 14th ultimo.

‘ The Governor General acknowledges his obliga-
 ‘ tions to the Board for this repeated instance of the
 ‘ liberal manner in which they have been pleased to
 ‘ record their judgment on his conduct.—Had it
 ‘ been expressed in the simple terms of official appro-
 ‘ bation, he should have been pleased, and satisfied
 ‘ that it had received so respectable a sanction; but
 ‘ by tracing the sources of it in the motives which he
 ‘ has avowed, by their examination of those motives,
 ‘ with their relative facts and circumstances, and by
 ‘ the doubts which they have anticipated and solved,
 ‘ on the propriety of such parts of his conduct as
 ‘ might most obviously suggest them, they have justi-
 ‘ fied their own approval, and entitled him to expect
 ‘ the same favourable sentiments in their common
 ‘ superiors.

‘ Nor is he less pleased with the reserve with which
 ‘ the Board have declared their satisfaction in the
 ‘ arrangement concluded by him with the Nabob
 ‘ Vizier, because he thinks it will be received as an
 ‘ evidence of the deliberation and sincerity of their
 ‘ former approval.—He is willing to submit the pro-
 ‘ priety of the measure to the test of its success.—
 ‘ The Resident has already informed the Board, that
 ‘ he had received of the treasures of the late Vizier,
 ‘ left in the charge of his widow, and lately re-
 S claimed

claimed by his son, the amount of the bond granted by the latter for the balance of the year 1178, which ends in September 1780 of our *Æra*, and was in the actual receipt of as much as would discharge the balance of the last year, that is of the year 1179.——The first of these balances is 32,68,613. 11.; the last 12,09,876. 9. 8. The sum of both is, Rupees 44,78,490. 4. 8. Oude Siccas. The Resident seems to have understood this to be the whole of the Nabob's debt. There is a further balance of 26 lacks, which appears to have been by some means overlooked, or withheld from Mr. Middleton on the transfer of his office from Mr. Purling; a rectified account, drawn to the latest period, has been transmitted to Mr. Middleton by the Accountant General, which, it is hoped, will arrive in time to prevent his stopping at the receipt of the supposed balance; and at all events, the profits of the resumed Jagheers ought to yield a fund, more than sufficient both for the complete liquidation of what may remain of the Nabob's present debt, and to make up the deficiency of the assignments granted on his revenue for the current year within the course of it.

The Governor General expects this service from the Resident, and relies upon his fidelity for the performance of it. But in the supposition of the possibility of a disappointment, he again offers his personal services to proceed to Lucknow, on the first symptom of such a failure; and, with the confidence which he feels in his own influence, aided by the powerful support of the Board, he will venture to promise that he will not return with their object unaccomplished.

He hopes and believes that there will be no necessity for this extremity; but adds it as a ground for the assurance which he ventures to propose, and wishes the Board to give to the Honourable Court of Directors, in the advices to them, now under dispatch, that there is the fairest prospect, amounting as near to a certainty as can be affirmed of an event yet in expectation, that the debt due from the Nabob Vizier to the Company, and even that of the Rohilla donation, will be compleatly paid off in the course of the present year, and a supply added to our ordinary resources, which will fully answer all our own wants for that period, and enable us to contribute still further, and we hope effectual, aids, to those of the Carnatic.

Then

Then several Extracts of a Letter from the Governor General and Council, in their Secret Department, to the Court of Directors, dated 11th February 1782, were read, as follows :

2d. We determined at the same time to dispatch the Nancy, Captain Hiffernan, with these reports, as soon as they could be prepared ; and we have now the pleasure to transmit them to you, a separate number in this packet.

3d. The above papers contain such a full account of all the transactions of the Governor General upon this service, together with his motives and reasonings upon them, that we think it would be superfluous to add any thing of our own in this place, but to recommend them to your attentive perusal, with our minutes which are annexed.

4th. By these it will appear, that the treachery and intrigues of Cheyt Sing, supported by the disaffection and restless disposition of the Bhow Begum, mother of the Nabob of Owde, at Fyzabad, produced insurrections in that country, which till lately we were unapprized of, on account of the communication between that place and Benares being wholly cut off.

5. At the same time that the first information of these disturbances reached us, we were happy to hear that they had been quelled by the accounts received there of the successful efforts of our troops in Benares, and the march of two regiments from Cawnpore to the relief of Colonel Hannay ; whose Sepoys gave evident proofs, by their desertion, that they had been tampered with, and he, with most of his officers, were in great danger of their lives ; a detachment under Lieutenant Gordon having been actually attacked and cut off, and the rest of the corps being surrounded by the rabble, levied under sanction of the Begum, avowedly for the service of Raja Cheyt Sing.

6. The circumstance of the levies is further corroborated by various reports from Fyzabad, and by the list of Cheyt Sing's forces, delivered to the Governor General at Chunar, in which the troops said to be come from Lucknow, which formed a part of his strength, must evidently be the same, (since they agree in number,) with those which Colonel Hannay declares to have been raised and sent to him from Fyzabad.

S 2

7. The

‘ 7. The just grounds of suspicion which had been given to the Nabob by the Begum, and other principal Jaghyrdars in his country, by the symptoms of disaffection, and even treachery, displayed in their conduct, made it an object of serious consideration with him, to take the first opportunity which should offer, consistent with justice, to dispossess them of the means of becoming injurious to his authority; and, the necessities of his government requiring extraordinary aid, he resolved to take this occasion of depriving them of those extensive Jaghires which enabled them to become troublesome, by the revenues which they yielded, and the number of dependants necessarily retained for their collection and defence, and to resume the lands, allowing pensions to the Jaghyrdars in lieu of the revenues.

‘ 8. As the Resident at Lucknow had been made guarantee to an agreement formerly executed between the Nabob and the Begum, in which he had engaged, for a specific sum of money, to desist from all further claims upon her, it was necessary for him to acquire the sanction of this government to his intentions, before he could carry them into execution; which the infidelity of the Begum gave but too much reason to grant.—You will find this measure provided for in the new Treaty, concluded with the Nabob by the Governor General at Chunar, on the 19th of September last.

‘ 9. On the first attempt made by the Nabob to carry this plan into execution against the Begum, she determined to resist his authority, and raised a revolt by the means of her eunuchs, Jewar Ally Cawn, and Bahar Ally Cawn, who had collected a force of about 5000 men, in order to set the Nabob at defiance.—Notice of this second insurrection having been transmitted by the Resident, without loss of time, to the Governor General at Benares, he immediately ordered a large detachment to march from Cawnpore, and the Nabob resolved to go in person to Fyzabad; on his arrival there, by the assistance of our troops, he took possession of the Kella; and the eunuchs, seeing it would be in vain to make a stand when superior forces were expected, surrendered themselves prisoners to the Nabob, and their followers dispersed.

‘ 10. In order to punish the Begum for this daring ill conduct, and to put it out of her power to apply the treasures which she had amassed to the purpose of raising further commotions in his country,
‘ the

the Nabob resolved to seize her wealth, which by the Mahomedan laws he was entitled to, as an inheritance from his father; who, in the latter years of his life, had committed his treasury wholly to her charge, and it had remained with her after his death.—This wealth, whatever it might be, he determined to apply to the payment of his debt to the Company; and we have received information from the Resident who attended him to Fyzabad, that he had actually paid him the sum of 55 lacks of Rupees in ready money, and by draft on Bahar and Jewar Ally Cawn, which would soon be realized.'

13. The uncertainty of Madajee Sindia's conduct before Mr. Anderson's arrival with him, from the false rumours which had been spread of Cheyt Sing's reception there, the necessity of establishing the authority of the new Rajah in the Zemindary of Benares, of proving the capacity of the person who had been appointed to take charge of it in quality of his Dewan, and disposing the military forces which would be necessary for the protection of the country, together with the objects comprized in the late Treaty with the Nabob of Oude, combined to engross the attention of the Governor General, and to detain him longer at Chunar than he intended; but these points being at length happily placed in such a train of execution as to dispense with any further necessity for the Governor General's immediate presence there, we have the pleasure to acquaint you, that he set out for the Presidency, and being returned, has this day resumed his seat at the Board.

Then a Letter from the Nabob of Furruckabad, received 11th May 1786, and a Letter to the said Nabob, written 7th September 1786 *, were read, as follows.

From the Nawab of Furruckabad:—Received 11th May 1786.—Co. Corr. No. 22.

'As I have taken shelter from every kind of cruel difficulty under the shadow of the Company's protection, and have rested my good and bad, and my

* Read from a Paper, intituled, "Copies of Persian Correspondence between the Nabob of Furruckabad and the Governor General of Bengal, since 1 Jan. 1786, &c."

'interests

' interests and advantage upon your Excellency, who
 ' is the chief of the noble gentlemen of the Com-
 ' pany, and is extolled through the world, and prais-
 ' ed in the universe for protection and support of
 ' your word; I therefore write to your presence part
 ' of my situation: that when Mr. John Willes was
 ' desirous of going to Calcutta, he said to me that he
 ' was going to Calcutta, in obedience to a summons
 ' from you; that he was well acquainted with the
 ' particulars of my distresses; that on account of the
 ' small collections from the country, I had not the
 ' resources to pay so much money and Nuzeranna,
 ' and to support myself also; that if I would give in
 ' writing, for the Governor General, my situation,
 ' he, that is to say, Mr. Willes, would fully make
 ' known the particulars of this place at the presence
 ' of the Governor General; and certainly some kind
 ' of resource and removal of my distresses would come
 ' to effect from the presence of the Governor General.
 ' —My protector, I who have no asylum nor protec-
 ' tor, except the Almighty and the English Com-
 ' pany, and know every one of the English gentle-
 ' men to be my supporter, from this consideration
 ' having sent with Mr. Willes, to your presence, a
 ' letter containing the particulars of my distresses, I
 ' was in hopes that certainly my relief and ease
 ' would be effected from your presence. When that
 ' gentleman arrived here on his return from Calcutta,
 ' and gave to me your kind letter, full of the greatest
 ' favours, to this purport; that the particulars of my
 ' distresses had fully come to your knowledge; that
 ' accordingly some plans which you had resolved up-
 ' on, for the removal of the impoverishment of the
 ' country, and for the support of my honour and
 ' credit, you had given in charge to Mr. Willes,
 ' and had sent him back to the office, which he holds
 ' here with me; that I should be pleased and satisfied
 ' with the information and execution of the plans
 ' which you had resolved upon, and from which you
 ' expected great advantages; that, considering the ad-
 ' vice which that gentleman should give to me to be
 ' your own advice, I should act in conformity there-
 ' to; and that you would employ such plans and
 ' exertions, without number, for my advantage and
 ' ease, and the removal of my distresses, that in the
 ' whole world it would be known that you had per-
 ' formed all these services for me—the greatest plea-
 ' sure came into my heart from the kind contents of
 ' it; and when, conformably to the contents of your
 ' letter,

letter, I enquired the circumstances from that gentleman, he, without mentioning one word of them, entered into authority over the affairs of the country and money, and made the ruler over the affairs of my house a man named Roy Deebchund, who, on account of his great age and bodily infirmities, has of himself no sense nor understanding, but from a long time has been the intimate friend of that gentleman's ministers; and he removed some of my companions, who had never been separated. From a regard to obedience, and to giving satisfaction to you, I in no way varied from that gentleman's directions; and he also, with peremptory importunities, sent people and demanded, for himself, some pieces of cannon which were with me: Although I answered that the things which were wanted he should send for at the time, and that they should at that time be sent with my own people who are appointed to that charge, yet he would not in the least attend to it, but fixed them in the possession of his own people; and a person named Simhell Dofs, who was indebted a large sum on account of balances to me, and had agreed to pay sixty thousand rupees of these balances, this man he would not at that time permit to be released, and soon after, without my consent, he appointed him to the affairs of the Pergunnahs, and I did not receive one daum of that money. What you wrote in your kind letter, consistently with favour and protection of dependants, on the subject of the service of my cavalry for the Nawaub Vizier, I enquired the particulars thereof from that gentleman, but he gave me no information. When I saw that Mr. Willes, from the advice and representations of wicked persons, who wish to ruin my house, was injuring and destroying all my concerns, in opposition to the purport of your kind letter which had arrived on the subject of ease and relief to me, I from the first said to that gentleman, that if he were desirous to take the Nuzeranna, he should commit to me the direction and management of the country, and should receive the money of the Nuzeranna from me, and should give me information of what might be the orders of the Governor General about my support and the protection of my honour, that conformably thereto I might act; or if not, that he should tell me so, that I might write my situation to the presence of the Governor General;

General ; but to this time that gentleman has delayed this business for to-day and to-morrow ; accordingly, my servants and attendants, and relations, and dependants, are in distresses of every kind ; and keep me, by their demands and importunities, in such a whirlpool of anxiety and difficulty, that my life is come into straits ; and although I make known to that gentleman my situation, yet the wicked men who are employed in all his affairs do not bring his mind to any other object except the injury of my affairs, and the destruction of my government. Accordingly, when that gentleman went for the settlement of the Mahals, I being without remedy, said to him that he was hiring new men for the settlement of the country, but that he should take with him my people, who were in fact servants of the English Company, and should transact every business and concern through them, and save their lives, by giving them their necessary sustenance, that I might find release from their importunities, and those who have long been my companions might have food.—At that time Mr. Willis agreed to this business ; but when I sent the people to him, he said to them, that if they would quit my service, and accept of his service, they might remain ; but if not, they might arise and depart.—The said people being without remedy, arose and came away. And besides, he has begun such violence in the town, that hundreds of houses of the inhabitants of the town, and some houses of my dependants, where they resided from the time of their fathers and grandfathers, he has pulled down and destroyed, and turned out the people ; and even to a person named Zehoor Ulla, a Seyed, having given thirty Rupees, and to a person named Mahomed Nejabut, an household slave of my own, having given a few Rupees, and having treated them with anger, he made them write, and took from, a declaration of satisfaction ; and having by anger and coaxing got to himself the Caazee of the town, and having fixed for the Caazee one Rupee in each village from the Pergunnahs, he affixes and takes the seal of the Caazee to every paper which he chuses ; and of the Ghauts for the duties of Furruckabad, which had been given up, he, without my consent, retained with himself two hundred Peons from the receipts of the duties. Accordingly the said Peons commit such violences

in

' in the whole town, that the people are killed with-
 ' out fault; and these particulars of the oppression
 ' and tyranny of that gentleman's ministers, which
 ' have been represented to the presence, will certainly
 ' have been also learnt by your Excellency from the
 ' News-papers. Accordingly, my dependants and
 ' followers, and the inhabitants of the town, to whom
 ' my ancestors attended even more than to their own
 ' children, distress and afflict me at all times, by
 ' making known the particulars of fresh violence;
 ' and I, who am in every way dependant on the hem
 ' of the garment of the Company, and of you, the
 ' supporter of justice, to whom else can I open the
 ' representation of my situation, except to you? and
 ' it is known to God, who knows all secrets, that,
 ' from these misfortunes of grief and mourning, and
 ' distresses of all kinds, such as never were before,
 ' such sickness has come upon me, that my life's des-
 ' tiny is to begin again. Although I consider it im-
 ' proper to write at all times accusations and com-
 ' plaints against the English gentlemen, from whom
 ' I know to exist the strength and cultivation of my
 ' government, yet, as I did not see in myself any
 ' kind of ability to bear, I have, whether I would or
 ' not, represented the particulars of my situation.—
 ' I hope that, consistently with your favour to de-
 ' pendants, you will inform me on the subject of my
 ' existence and cultivation of my government, which,
 ' in truth, is reputation to the English Company, and
 ' to you, in the whole country of Hindostan, what
 ' you have resolved in your favourable heart; because
 ' it is not known how much money will be received
 ' in the English Company's Sircar, and how much
 ' will remain for my existence.—If not, let it be or-
 ' dered, that I, with my family and children, being
 ' arrived at your presence, may personally represent
 ' my situation. At that time, whatever may come
 ' into your mind on the subject of my existence, con-
 ' sidering it to be the law of my life, and my interest
 ' and advantage, I may obtain release from these va-
 ' rious states, full of vexation. And in this period,
 ' from the time of Mr. Willes's arrival here, three
 ' letters of favour have been received, and that I
 ' have delayed in writing the answer to them, God
 ' knows how great affliction and despair have come
 ' into my heart, that perhaps what suspicion might
 ' find entrance into your mind from my not writing
 ' letters of allegiance. Accordingly I now make
 T known

' known to your mind of pure virtues, that the said
 ' gentleman demands of me answers to your letters in
 ' the manner of his own desire, in a style of satisfac-
 ' tion.—I, from this consideration, that the said gen-
 ' tleman had thrown to the winds my concerns, by
 ' the advice of bad-dispositioned people, and said no-
 ' thing on the subject of my subsistence, and keeps
 ' it in delay, if I should write to you a word of
 ' satisfaction from myself, and should afterwards re-
 ' present my situation, on account of the heavy dis-
 ' tresses and the ruin of all affairs, which has hap-
 ' pened, and is happening, it would not be proper
 ' and becoming: Therefore, having made known
 ' to your favourable judgment my situation, I hope
 ' that I may be soon exalted and set at ease by an
 ' answer to this letter; otherwise I will go to your
 ' presence, from the heavy weight of my distresses.
 ' If you should order it, I will write on a separate
 ' paper, and send to your presence, what, to this
 ' time, the said gentleman has given to me.

' To the Nawab of Furruckabad, written 7th Septem-
 ' ber 1786.—Co. Corr. No. 22.

' I received your letter of complaint against Mr.
 ' Willis, transmitted to me through an irregular
 ' channel, and written, as I have every reason to
 ' believe, at the instigation of those who wish to get
 ' possession of your country.—I have called upon
 ' Mr. Willis for an answer to the letter which you
 ' have written against him. This answer he has sent,
 ' and it is fully satisfactory.

' My friend, I find that all the labours of my pre-
 ' decessor, Mr. Hastings, and of myself, to settle your
 ' affairs upon a regular footing, are ineffectual.

' I have informed myself fully, through other
 ' channels besides Mr. Willis, relative to your affairs,
 ' your own conduct, and the situation of the pro-
 ' vince of Furruckabad; I am sorry that you have
 ' not paid proper attention to Mr. Willis, or his ad-
 ' vice, nor given the proper support to your Dewan.

' A new Governor General is arrived at Madras;
 ' he is a nobleman of the highest character and
 ' rank.—I have called upon Mr. Willis to come to
 ' Calcutta, to give a full account of affairs to the said
 ' Governor: In the mean time, if you value my ad-
 ' vice, you will attend to Mr. Willis's direction, and
 ' not

‘ not alter any regulation which he may have settled,
‘ until his return.

‘ I see clearly where the mismanagement of your
‘ affairs will end, and that it will be impossible to
‘ prevent your country and your revenues from fall-
‘ ing, (in consequence of the ill advice which you
‘ follow,) as a prey to the servants of the Nawab
‘ Vizier. I have shewn to you every friendship in
‘ my power, but you will not attend to your own in-
‘ terest or dignity.’

NATHANIEL MIDDLETON, Esquire, called in,
and examined.

Did you leave Chunar with the Nabob Vizier, in Sep-
tember 1781?

I did.

Did Husein Reza Cawn and Hyder Beg Cawn accom-
pany you?

They did.

Was Mrs. Hastings at Chunar while the Nabob was
there?

She was not.

Did you send any sums, and what sums of money, from
Lucknow to Chunar, or Benares, during the troubles in
those parts?

I did from Lucknow—whilst I was at Chunar a sum of
money was sent.

To what particular object destined?

By the order of Mr. Hastings.

Had you an acquittance for it from Mr. Hastings?

I do not recollect that I had any thing but his order
for it.

Do you know whether it was to be employed for the
payment of the troops, or in what other way?

I understood it was for the payment of the troops.

How much was the sum?

I recollect at one time there was a lack of Rupees sent.

Are you sure you sent, or caused to be sent, no other
sums?

I think I recollect that bills were sent for some money
of the late Colonel Goddard's—the sum I do not re-
collect.

Do you recollect any bills upon Gopaul Doss?

I really do not know who the bills were upon.

Did you remit any money to Gopaul Doss?

I do not recollect that I did.

Did Mr. Hastings inform you of any money borrowed or received at that time from Beneram Pundit?

He did not.

Did Mr. Hastings express himself at any time to you, after the supplies you have mentioned, as under great apprehensions for want of money to pay the detachment at Benares?

I do recollect Mr. Hastings having frequently expressed great apprehensions from the great difficulties he laboured under for want of money to pay the troops.

Was it not at that period Mr. Hastings received the present of ten lacs from the Nabob?

It must, I conceive, have been about that time.

But notwithstanding Mr. Hastings complained of want of money, and apprehension of distress, so communicated to you, did he never inform you of this resource?

He did not.

Could Mr. Hastings have entirely concealed the receipt of this sum, whether in bills or money, from you, who was then confidentially engaged with him in making the Treaty of Chunar with the Nabob, without considerable management and care, that the receipt of the said present should not come to your knowledge?

I really cannot say what management was used—I certainly did not know of it.

If the present was made in money, could it any ways have been lodged in Mr. Hastings's hands, without your knowing of it, unless particular precautions had been used?

I think, had it been lodged in money, I should have heard of it.

Then you conceive the payment must have been made in bills?

I think it most likely; but it is matter of opinion.

Do you think that a transaction relative to so great a sum of money by bills between Lucknow and Benares, could have taken place without your receiving any information relative to it, either at the time, or upon your return to Lucknow?

I think it very possible it might.

Do you mean to say, that from your situation as Resident at Lucknow, it was easy, or even possible, for the Vizier, under the circumstances of distress in which his affairs then were, to have transferred so large a sum to any person, without your having intelligence of it?

Very possible certainly, but not easy.

Then, if it was a matter of difficulty, there must have been

been some care and attention used to make the concealment effectual?

Certainly there must have been some care.

Did you know whether Behar Ally Cawn was at Chunar or Benares whilst Mr. Hastings was at either of those places?

I never heard that he was.

Did the Nabob make the offer of the second present to Mr. Hastings, of ten lacks of Rupees, in a conversation with you, or by letter?

Not by letter, certainly.—I am not certain whether he made it verbally himself, or through his minister.

Who do you mean by his minister?

Hussain Reza Cawn and Hyder Beg Cawn; they used both to bring communications from the Nabob to me indiscriminately.

Are you then confident that you had no written authority from the Nabob to make this offer?

I do not think I had.

Do you think you have any such paper, or copy of such paper, now?

No—I think I have not.

Do you doubt whether you have or not?

I do not remember receiving any letter from the Nabob on this subject; and therefore I cannot suppose I have any such paper.

Have you any such written authority from either of the ministers before mentioned?

I believe I have not.

Are you sure that you never had any conversation directly with the Nabob himself upon the subject?

I cannot be positive that I did—I conceived his ministers much in the same light as himself.

Did you never know any instance wherein those ministers acted without his authority, or made use of his name?

I cannot say that I know any instances.

Do you not recollect that Mr. Hastings charged Hyder Beg with repeated instances of such a conduct?

I think I have heard so; and I am pretty sure I have seen it upon record in the papers before this House.

Who communicated to Mr. Hastings the offer of the second present of one hundred thousand pounds?

I did.

Who received Mr. Hastings's answer upon the subject, and to whom was that communicated?

I never received any answer to it—nor did I ever hear that he had made any reply to it, or taken any notice of it.

Was

Was not this about the time when you informed the committee, in your former evidence, that you had first the misfortune to fall under Mr. Hastings's displeasure?

It was from Fyzabad; which, I believe, was about that time.

Do you believe, that if Mr. Hastings had accepted this present, the receipt of it could have remained a secret, as in the case of the former present?

It is certainly possible.

You have said, that the former present could not have been concealed without great care and attention being paid to that object, what measures had you taken for the clandestine transmittance of the second present to Calcutta?

I had taken none.

How then was it to remain a secret?

The witness asks, whether the question means the remittance of it?

The fact of it's being received?

Had it been received and remitted through me, it certainly could not have been a secret.

What measures were taken to realize this present, or any part of it, at Lucknow?

I believe nothing further than an assignment given for it.

What sort of an assignment do you mean, and upon what fund?

Assignments upon the revenue of the country.

Upon what province, and upon what collector?

I do not recollect it was upon any particular district—it was added to the general assignments of the Company.

Are you sure that this assignment was not upon the Jaghire of the Begums?

Pretty certain that no part of it was upon those Jaghires.

Was nothing collected upon this assignment?

It is difficult to make any separation—it was added to the Company's assignments, and credit given for the whole sum collected.

Then an additional sum of ten lacks was collected in consequence of this assignment upon some district or other?

The assignments were not nearly realized; there was a great balance upon them.

Was it in part collected?

Not separately. It was added to the general assignments.

Was not a greater sum collected in consequence of this present,

present, than would otherwise have been collected in that period of receiving the Company's balance?

I do not apprehend that a larger sum was collected, though assignments to a larger amount were made; but they fell considerably in value.

Do you mean that the whole sum fell equally in arrear?

The whole assignments-fell in arrear.

Why did you cause any measures to be taken towards collecting money upon this assignment, before you was apprized whether Mr. Hastings would or would not accept the present?

I understood that it was the Nabob's desire that the assignment should be given; and it was never my intention to take any measures to urge the payment without Mr. Hastings's authority.

Had you not reported to Mr. Hastings, just previous to your going to Fyzabad, that the Nabob's body guard had risen upon him for want of pay?

I cannot say that I recollect the circumstance, though it is very possible, all the Nabob's troops being very ill paid.

Do you not recollect to have informed Mr. Hastings, at the same period, that the Nabob was in a distracted state of mind, and had expressed his apprehensions that certain bodies of troops which were proposed to be sent into his dominions by order of Mr. Hastings, were intended, under whatever pretence they might come, to be employed ultimately in securing his (the Nabob's) person?

I have a recollection of a letter to that purport.

Then did you not conceive it to be an extraordinary circumstance, that the Nabob, in such a state of his affairs, and in such a state of mind with respect to Mr. Hastings, should apply to you to request Mr. Hastings's acceptance of a present of above 100,000l?

I believe the two occurrences were at different periods of time. I think, it will be found, that the letter here alluded to must have been written before the Nabob went to Fyzabad.

Do you not conceive that the acquisition of the treasure taken from the Begums enabled the Nabob, whatever were his motives to offer this present?

I conceive it did.

Do you recollect at what time Major Palmer, and Major Davy came to Lucknow?

I cannot recollect exactly—I think it must have been about May 1782—probably earlier.

Was it after measures had been taken to collect money upon

upon the assignment given by the Nabob for the ten lacks before mentioned?

I think it must have been after the assignment had been given.

Were not those gentlemen instructed to communicate with you upon the matters relative to which they were sent to Lucknow?

I know no more than what I collect from Mr. Hastings's letter on that occasion.

Did you ever converse with them upon the subject of this second present?

I did not—I left Lucknow a very few days after Major Palmer arrived.

Did you not return again to Lucknow, and then find Major Palmer and Major Davy there?

I found Major Palmer, and not Major Davy.

Did you then discuss with him this subject of the present, or learn from him in what situation the business then stood?

I did not.

Were you not afterwards employed by the Nabob Vizier, or his ministers, to transmit letters from the Nabob to Mr. Hastings?

I was.

Had you not sometimes a knowledge of the contents and purport of those letters?

In general I had a knowledge of the purport.

Do you recollect to have been shewn, or to have been informed of the contents of a letter from the Nabob Vizier, stated to have been received by Mr. Hastings, the 23d August 1782, in which are the following passages, relative to this second present of ten lacks of Rupees, viz.
 “ Major William Palmer and Major Davy have made
 “ known to me your order respecting my authority in the
 “ country, with great regard and consideration, and have
 “ made me grateful for your favours. They ask for a pa-
 “ per of requests, which I accordingly wrote, and gave to
 “ them. They afterwards spoke about ten lacks of Ru-
 “ pces for the expences of the Sircar of the Company;
 “ next, they spoke about four regiments, that I should
 “ employ them. Respecting these two articles, although
 “ I have no power, being remediless, in obedience to
 “ your will I wrote a letter to Major Palmer in the man-
 “ ner I agreed to it. How shall I make known my situa-
 “ tion? From the time that these propositions have been
 “ made, all judgment has left my mind?”

I do not recollect ever to have heard of such a letter.

Did

Did Major Palmer ever communicate to you letters to a similar purport, and equally expressive of the Nabob's surprize at the demand for the ten lacks?

Never, to my knowledge.

Are you confident, that the first communication that was really made to the Nabob himself, on the subject of this supposed present of ten lacks, was not through Major Palmer?

I should conceive not.

The first suggestion of it to the Nabob?

I must be very much deceived if it was.

Were not communications and transactions carried on between Hyder Beg, Major Palmer, and Major Davy, concealed at the time from you, and which you afterwards heard with surprize?

The committee will be pleased to recollect, that I was absent from Lucknow a great part of the time that Major Palmer was there; and Major Palmer, during that time, was, I may say, the only channel of communication between the Nabob, his Ministers, and Mr. Hastings.—At that time communications were certainly made, to which I was a stranger, as well as my assistant, Mr. Johnstone.

Do you not recollect to have informed Mr. Hastings, while the journey to Fyzabad was in agitation, that the Nabob complained loudly of the treachery of his ministers, and that he had been deceived?

I do recollect that the Nabob made such complaints; and I believe I communicated them to Mr. Hastings.

Is it not then possible, that the Nabob might have been deceived by his ministers, in the affair of this present?

It is possible, but I think scarcely probable.

You, however, yourself, do not recollect to have had any direct conversation with the Nabob upon the subject, nor to have received any authority from him?

I cannot charge my memory with having had any communication with the Nabob upon that subject, but I think it very probable that I had.

Then one of the books which had been produced by the witness to this committee, on the 23d of February last, intituled, "Letters to the Board, from 1777 to 1782," being shewn to him,

He was desired to explain to the committee, how the leaves, to the number of twelve, wanting in that book, came to be out of it,—from the 12th of May to the 18th of June 1781?

It appears to be in the other part of the book, misplaced.

placed.—I must beg leave to add, that I should not have been surprized if those leaves had been missing, as I never delivered those books as a correct copy of my correspondence—they were such as I happened to have by me.

Had you not received some letters from Major Davy, to be delivered to the Ministers of the Vizier, Hussein Reza Cawn, and Hyder Beg Cawn, of 28th March 1782, without any copies or translations, for your information?

I cannot say I recollect—but it is very possible.

The witness is shewn a letter to Major Davy from himself, a copy of which is as follows:

‘ To Mr. W. Davy, private Persian Interpreter.

‘ Sir,

‘ I have been favoured with yours of the 28th ultimo, inclosing letters from the Honourable the Governor General, to his Excellency the Vizier, Hussein Reza Cawn, and Hyder Beg Cawn, which were immediately delivered in obedience to his orders.—Permit me, Sir, to inform you, that the Governor General, when he has had occasion to address the Vizier on subjects of business, especially when I have been the channel of conveying the letters, has usually done me the honour to accompany them either with copies or translations for my information, which having been of late omitted, I impute to its having escaped his memory to mention it to you at the time of your appointment to your present office.

‘ I shall esteem myself obliged if you will do me the favour to notice this observation to the Governor General, and receive his command upon it.

‘ I have the honour to be,

‘ Sir,

‘ Your most obedient

‘ Humble servant,

‘ Lucknow,

‘ NATH. MIDDLETON.’

‘ 12th Apr. 1782.’

Do you recollect that letter?

I do, perfectly.

What answer did you receive to that letter?

Major Davy answered, I believe, that he would for the future send me copies.

Did

Did you enter that answer of Major Davy in your copy book?

It is probable I did; but I cannot positively say that I did.

Whether you have reason to think any more letters went to the Vizier, without having the copies or translations communicated to you?

After that I believe not.—None through me.

Whether Hoolas Roy, an agent of yours, was not sent down to Chunar to be sworn before Sir Elijah Impey, relative to the charge against the Begums?

Hoolas Roy was the agent on the part of the Resident at Fyzabad, and he was ordered to attend at Chunar.

Have you heard why his affidavit did not appear among the rest?

I never did hear.—I do not think I ever heard that he was examined at Chunar.—At least I do not recollect.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

Mr. WILLIAM WRIGHT, Auditor of Indian Accounts, called in, and examined.

And an account intituled, “No. 2, Duplicate Copy of
“the particulars of the presents taken from the Na-
“bob Vizier and his ministers, and from Nundoo
“Delol, carried to the Honourable Company’s cre-
“dit to the account of the receipts and disbursements
“of the Governor General, during his absence from
“the Presidency, on a visit to the Northern Pro-
“vinces, and included in Mr. Hastings’s account of
“22d May 1782, inserted in copy of a letter from
“W. Larkins, Esquire, Accountant General in Ben-
“gal, to the Chairman of the East India Company,
“dated 5th August 1786, No. 6,” being shewn to
the witness,

He was asked;

Is that an account of payments made by cash or bills, or both?

From the title I apprehend both—I cannot speak from the account itself—I apprehend it must be both of cash and bills, from the sum of 10,30,275 Rupees, which I recollect to be the sum entered on the general books of 1781-2, as received from Mr. Hastings.

Do you understand that that is a memorandum of the money received by Mr. Hastings at Chunar?

I understand it so.

And you understand from the accounts, that the payment made was partly in cash and partly in bills?

I do.—The journal is here, and will explain it.

Then

Then the journal was delivered in by the witness.

Whether these ten lacks were paid into the Company's treasury, or brought to account for various expenditures?

It is brought to account under the head of charges Durbar in the journal—to which head Mr. Hastings is made debtor for that sum.

Whether the journals and ledgers of that period have been regularly transmitted as they were in former times?

I cannot charge my memory with the circumstance—there is an account before the house, of the times at which the journals and ledgers for some years have been received in England.

Whether Mr. Hastings has at any time transmitted or produced to the Court of Directors any vouchers to prove his receipt of two lacks of Rupees upon bond from Benaram Pundit, or any vouchers for the discharge of that debt?

There is an entry to that effect on the journal of the year 1781; but no further vouchers, as I have seen.

Does that entry refer to any voucher?

I do not recollect immediately—but the journal entry is before the house.

Whether the several payments said to be made to the regimental paymasters, on account of Mr. Hastings, are all of them dated, so as to ascertain the time of the payment?

No, they are not.

Do you recollect whether the other articles of Durbar charges are dated?

I believe not all, as to the expenditure under that head.

Whether the Durbar charges of Mr. Hastings, when he went up to Lucknow in 1784, are dated?

I think from recollection that they are.

From what funds did Mr. Hastings receive the five lacks of Rupees which he expended in his journey to Lucknow in 1784?

He received some from the Calcutta treasury, some from the Accountant at Lucknow, and some from the Resident at Benares; a particular account of the receipt and expenditure of that money is before the house.

Whether the article of the Durbar charges of the money paid to the detachment attending Mr. Hastings, includes the regular pay of that detachment, or is a superadded charge?

I do not think there is any such entry under that particular head of Durbar charges.

And then the witness was directed to withdraw.

To report a progress, &c.

He End



